TRAVELS

IN

KAMTSCHATKA,

DURING THE YEARS 1787 AND 1788.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

M. DE LESSEPS, CONSUL OF FRANCE,

AND

INTERPRETER TO THE COUNT DE LA PEROUSE, NOW
ENGAGED IN A VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD, BY
COMMAND OF HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

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000 attempt by land, and the paſſage by ſea was not leſs dangerous; beſides there was no veſſel either in the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, or of Bolcheretſk*.

M. Koſloff had his affairs to ſettle, which, with the preparations for our departure, detained us ſix days longer, and afforded me time to ſatisfy myſelf that the frigates were not likely to return. I embraced this opportunity of commencing my obſervations, and making minutes of every thing
361 about me. I attended particularly to the
712 bay of Avatcha, and the port of Saint Peter
R and Saint Paul, in order to give a juſt idea
177
.71 of them.

This bay has been minutely deſcribed by captain Cook, and we found his account to be accurate. It has ſince undergone ſome alter-

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* The navigation is ſufficiently ſafe in ſummer, and is the only mode of travelling that is adopted.

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alterations; which, it is ſaid, are to be followed by many others; particularly as to the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. It is poſſible indeed, that the very next ſhip which ſhall arrive, expecting to find only five or ſix houſes, may be ſurpriſed with the ſight of an entire town, built of wood, but tolerably fortified.

Such at leaſt is the projected plan, which, as I learned indirectly, is to be aſcribed to M. Kaſloff, whoſe views are equally great, and conducive to the ſervice of his miſtreſs. The execution of this plan will contribute not a little to increaſe the celebrity of the port, already made famous by the foreign veſſels which have touched there, as well as by its favourable ſituation for commerce *.

To

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* According to the accounts of the earlieſt navigators, it is the moſt commodious port in this part of Aſia, and ought to be the general depôt for the commerce of the country. This would be ſo much the more advantageous, as the veſſels which frequent the other ports, commonly conſider themſelves

361 To underſtand the nature, and eſtimate
712 the utility of this project, nothing more is
R neceſſary
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.71 ſelves as fortunate if they eſcape ſhipwreck; and for this reaſon the Empreſs has expreſsly prohibited all navigation after the 26th of September.

I learned a circumſtance at the ſame time, which confirms what I have ſaid, and ſeems to have occaſioned the firſt idea of theſe improvements.

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439 An Engliſh ſhip, belonging to M. Lanz, a merchant of Macao, came to anchor in the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, in the year 1786. Captain Peters, who commanded the veſſel, made propoſals of commerce to the Ruſſians, of which the following are the particulars. By a treaty which he had entered into with a Ruſſian merchant, named Schelikhoff, he engaged to carry on a commerce with this part of the ſtates of the Empreſs, and demanded goods to the amount of eighty thouſand roubles. Theſe goods would probably have conſiſted of furs, which the Engliſh expected to find a market for in China, from whence they would have brought back in exchange ſtuffs and other articles uſeful to the Ruſſians. Schelikhoff repaired immediately to Saint Peterſburg, to ſolicit the conſent of his ſovereign, which he obtained; but while was endeavouring to fulfil the conditions of his engagement, he learned that the Engliſh veſſel had been loſt upon the coaſt of Copper Iſland *(Ile de Cuivre)* in its return to Kamtſchatka from the north-weſt part of America, where it was probable it had ſailed,

in

361 neceſſary than to have an idea of the extent
712 and form of the bay of Avatſcha, and the
R 177 port in queſtion. We have already many
.71 accurate deſcriptions, which are in the hands of every one. I ſhall therefore confine myſelf to what may tend to illuſtrate the views of M. Kaſloff.

The port of St. Peter and St. Paul, is known to be ſituated at the north of the entrance of the bay, and cloſed in at the ſouth by a very narrow neck of land, upon which the oſtrog*, or village of Kamtſchatka

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177 in order to begin its cargo, which it expected to complete
439 at the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Two only of the crew were known to have been ſaved, a Portugueſe and a Bengal negro, who paſſed the winter at Copper Iſland, from whence a Ruſſian veſſel conveyed them to Nijenei-Kamtſchatka. We joined them at Bolcheretſk, and it was M. Kaſloff's intention to ſend them next ſeaſon to Peterſburg.

* The word *oſtrog* properly ſignifies a conſtruction ſurrounded with palliſadoes. Its etymology may be derived, I imagine, from the entrenchments haſtily conſtructed by the Ruſſians

361 ſchatka is built. Upon an eminence to the
712 eaſt, at the moſt interior point of the bay,
R is the houſe of the governor [*], with whom
177 M. Kaſloff reſided during his ſtay. Near
.71 this houſe, almoſt in the ſame line, is that of a corporal of the garriſon, and a little higher inclining to the north, that of the ſerjeant, who, next to the governor, are the only perſons at all diſtinguiſhed in this ſettlement, if indeed it deſerves the name of ſettlement. Oppoſite to the entrance of the port, on the declivity of the eminence, from which a lake of conſiderable extent is ſeen, are the ruins of the hoſpital mentioned in captain Cooke's voyage [†]. Below theſe,

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Ruſſians to protect them from the incurſions of the natives, who, doubtleſs, did not paſſively ſuffer their country to be invaded. The appellation of oſtrog is now given to almoſt all the villages in this country.

[*] His name was Khabaroff, and he had the rank of a *preporchik*, or enſign.

[†] At a little diſtance from this ſpot was buried, at the foot of a tree, the body of captain Clerke. The inſcription which

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theſe, and nearer the ſhore, is a building which ſerves as a magazine to the garriſon, and which is conſtantly guarded by a centinel. Such was the ſtate in which we found the port of St. Peter and St. Paul.

By the propoſed augmentation, it will evidently become an intereſting place. The entrance was to be cloſed, or at leaſt flanked by fortifications, which were to ſerve at the ſame time as a defence, on this ſide, to the projected town, which was chiefly to

which the Engliſh placed upon his tomb, was on wood, and liable to be effaced. Count de la Perouſe, deſirous that the name of this navigator ſhould be immortaliſed, without having any thing to fear from the injuries of the weather, ſubſtituted inſtead of it an inſcription on copper.

It is needleſs to mention, that he enquired at the ſame time where the famous French aſtronomer, from the iſland of Croyere, had been buried. He entreated M. Kaſloff to order a tomb to be erected, and an epitaph, which he left engraved on copper, to be placed on it, containing an elogy, and the circumſtances of the death of our countryman. I ſaw his intentions carried into execution after the departure of the French frigates.

be

361 be built upon the ſite of the old hoſpital;
712 that is, between the port and the lake. A
R battery alſo was to be erected upon the
177 neck of land which ſeparates the bay from
.71 the lake, in order to protect the other part of the town. In ſhort, by this plan, the entrance of the bay would be defended by a ſufficiently ſtrong battery upon the leaſt elevated point of the left coaſt; and veſſels entering the bay could not eſcape the cannon, becauſe of the breakers on the right. There is at preſent upon the point of a rock, a battery of ſix or eight cannon, lately erected to ſalute our frigates.

563 I need not add, that the augmentation of
712 the garriſon forms a part of the plan, which
R conſiſts only at preſent of forty ſoldiers, or
177 Coſſacs. Their mode of living and their
.71 dreſs are ſimilar to the Kamtſchadales, except that in time of ſervice they have a ſabre, firelock, and cartouch box; in other

reſpects

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563 reſpects they are not diſtinguiſhable from the indigenes, but by their features and idiom.

161 361 With reſpect to the Kamtſchadale village, which forms a conſiderable part of the place, and is ſituated, as I have already ſaid, upon the narrow projection of land which cloſes in the entrance of the port, it is at preſent compoſed of from thirty to forty habitations, including winter and ſummer ones, called *iſbas* and *balagans*; and the number of inhabitants, taking in the garriſon, does not exceed a hundred, men, women and children. The intention is to increaſe them to upwards of four hundred.

13 To theſe details reſpecting the port of St. Peter and St. Paul, and its deſtined improvements, I ſhall add a few remarks upon the nature of the ſoil, the climate, and the

rivers.

13 rivers. The banks of the bay of Avatſcha are rendered difficult of acceſs by high mountains, of which ſome are covered with wood, and others have volcanos *. The valleys preſent a vegetation that aſtoniſhed me. The graſs was nearly of the height of a man; and the rural flowers, ſuch as the wild roſes and others that are interſperſed with them, diffuſe far and wide a moſt grateful ſmell.

The rains are in general heavy during ſpring and autumn, and blaſts of wind are frequent in autumn and winter. The latter is ſometimes rainy; but notwithſtanding its length, they aſſured me that its ſeverity is not very extreme, at leaſt in this

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* There is a volcano about fifteen or twenty werſts from the port, which the naturaliſts who accompanied count de la Perouſe viſited, and which will be mentioned in his voyage. The inhabitants informed me that ſmoak often iſſued from it, but that an eruption, which uſed to be frequent, had not happened for many years.

ſouthern

13 ſouthern part of Kamtſchatka*. The ſnow begins to appear on the ground in October, and the thaw does not take place till April or May; but even in July it is ſeen to fall upon the ſummit of high mountains, and particularly volcanos. The ſummer is tolerably fine; the ſtrongeſt heats ſcarcely laſt beyond the ſolſtice. Thunder is ſeldom heard, and is never productive of injury.

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* The exceſſive cold of which the Engliſh complain, may not be without example; and I pretend not to contradict them. But as a proof that the rigour of the climate is not ſo very piercing, the inhabitants, whom they repreſent as not daring to come out of their ſubterraneous dwellings, or *yourts*, during the whole winter, for fear of being frozen, no longer conſtruct any of theſe caves in this ſouthern part of the peninſula, as I ſhall have occaſion to obſerve elſewhere. I acknowledge, however, that the cold which I experienced during my abode there, and which may be compared to that of the winter of 1779, appeared to me very ſimilar to what is felt at Saint Peterſburg. What the Engliſh muſt have had reaſon to ſuppoſe extraordinary, are the dreadful hurricanes, which bring on ſuch thick and heavy ſtorms of ſnow, that it is not poſſible either to venture out, or to advance, if we are on a journey. I experienced this more than once, as will be ſeen in the ſequel.

13 Such is the temperature of almoſt all this part of the peninſula.

Two rivers pour their waters into the bay of Avatſcha; that from which the bay is named, and the Paratounka. They both abound with fiſh, and every ſpecies of water fowl, but theſe are ſo wild, that it is not poſſible to approach within fifty yards of them. The navigation of theſe rivers is impracticable after the 26 November, becauſe they are always frozen at this time; and in the depth of winter the bay itſelf is covered with ſheets of ice, which are kept there by the wind blowing from the ſea; but they are completely diſpelled as ſoon as it blows from the land. The port of St. Peter and St. Paul is commonly ſhut up by the ice in the month of January.

I ſhould doubtleſs ſay ſomething in this place of the manners and cuſtoms of the Kamt-

000 ſuperior, joined our little troop, and we embarked upon *baidars**, in order to croſs the bay and reach Paratounka, where we were to be ſupplied with horſes to proceed on our route.

In five or ſix hours we arrived at this oſtrog, where the prieſt †, or rector of the diſtrict reſides, and whoſe church alſo is in this place ‡. His houſe ſerved us for a lodging,

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abode there, and prove to him that the Engliſh are not the only foreigners intereſted in his ſorrowful lot.

501 * *Baidars* are boats ſomewhat ſimilar to European ones, except that the ſides are made of planks from four to ſix inches wide, and faſtened together with withies or cords; and that they are caulked with moſs. The baidars are the only veſſels made uſe of to ſail to the Kurilles iſlands; they are commonly rowed, but will admit of a ſail.

† His name is *Feodor Vereſchaguin*; he ſucceeded his eldeſt brother Romanoff Vereſchaguin, who ſhewed ſo many civilities to captain Clerke, and whom I afterwards found at Bolcheretſk.

‡ His predeceſſor had informed the Engliſh that this pariſh was to be immediately transferred to the oſtrog of St. Peter

000 ing, and we were treated with the utmoſt hoſpitality; but we had ſcarcely entered when the rain fell in ſuch abundance, that we were obliged to ſtay longer than we wiſhed.

I eagerly embraced this ſhort interval to deſcribe ſome of the objects which I had deferred till my arrival at Bolcheretſk, where, perhaps, I may find others that will not be leſs intereſting.

361 The oſtrog of Paratounka is ſituated by
164 the ſide of a river of that name, about two
133 leagues from its mouth *. This village is ſcarcely

Peter and St. Paul; but this cannot take place till the projected improvements reſpecting the port are carried into execution. We cannot help obſerving, that the Engliſh have omitted to mention that there was formerly a church at St. Peter and St. Paul's, and that its ſituation is known by means of a ſort of tomb which formed a part of it.

* This river empties itſelf, as I have already ſaid, into the bay of Avatſcha. The ſhoals, which are commonly dry

361 ſcarcely more populous than that of St.
164 Peter and St. Paul. The ſmall pox has,
133 in this place particularly, made dreadful ravages. The number of balagans and iſbas ſeemed to be very nearly the ſame as at Petropavloſska*.

342 The Kamtſchadales lodge in the firſt du-
R ring ſummer, and retreat to the laſt in
177 winter. As it is thought deſirable that
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dry at low water, render its entrance impracticable; it is even difficult at high water.

* As I ſtood to examine the Kamtſchadale houſes, I frequently imagined to myſelf the diſdainful ſurpriſe that our French Sybarites would expreſs at the ſight, ſome of whom are ſo proud of their vaſt hotels, and others ſo jealous of their little neat and decorated apartments, where the art of arrangement ſcarcely falls ſhort of the refined luxury of ſuperb furniture. I conceived them to exclaim—How can human beings live in theſe miſerable huts! A Kamtſchadale however, is by no means unhappy in theſe cabins, whoſe architecture ſeem to lead us back to the firſt age of the world; he lives there with his family in tranquillity; he enjoys at leaſt the happineſs of knowing few privations, and of having therefore leſs wants, and has no objects of envious compariſon before his eyes.

they

342 R 177.34 they ſhould be brought gradually to reſemble the Ruſſian peaſants, they are prohibited, in this ſouthern part of Kamtſchatka, from conſtructing any more *yourts*, or ſubterraneous habitations; theſe are all deſtroyed at preſent[*], a few veſtiges only remain of them, filled up within, and appearing externally like the roofs of our ice-houſes.

342 The balagans are elevated above the ground upon a number of poſts, placed at equal diſtances, and about twelve or thirteen feet high. This rough ſort of colonnade ſupports in the air a platform made of rafters, joined to one another, and overſpread with clay: this platform ſerves as a floor to the whole building, which conſiſts of a roof in the ſhape of a cone, covered with a kind

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[*] I met with ſome afterwards in the northern part, which I took care to examine, and have deſcribed in their proper place.

of

342 of thatch, or dried graſs, placed upon long
354 poles faſtened together at the top, and bearing
511 upon the rafters. This is at once the
417 firſt and laſt ſtory; it forms the whole apartment, or rather chamber: an opening in the roof ſerves inſtead of a chimney to let out the ſmoke, when a fire is lighted to dreſs their victuals; this cookery is performed in the middle of the room, where they eat and ſleep pell-mell together without the leaſt diſguſt or ſcruple. In theſe apartments, windows are out of the queſtion; there is merely a door, ſo low and narrow, that it will ſcarcely ſuffice to admit the light. The ſtair-caſe is worthy of the reſt of the building; it conſiſts of a beam, or rather a tree jagged in a ſlovenly manner, one end of which reſts on the ground, and the other is raiſed to the height of the floor. It is placed at the angle of the door, upon a level, with a kind of open gallery that is erected before it. This tree retains

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

417 retains its roundneſs, and preſents on one
576 ſide ſomething like ſteps, but they are ſo incommodious that I was more than once in danger of breaking my neck. In reality, whenever this vile ladder turns under the feet of thoſe who are not accuſtomed to it, it is impoſſible to preſerve an equilibrium; a fall muſt be the conſequence, more or leſs dangerous, in proportion to the height. When they wiſh perſons to be informed that there is nobody at home, they merely turn the ſtair-caſe, with the ſteps inward.

251 Motives of convenience may have ſuggeſted to theſe people the idea of building ſuch ſtrange dwellings, which their mode of living renders neceſſary and commodious. Their principal food being dried fiſh, which is alſo the nouriſhment of their dogs, it is neceſſary, in order to dry their fiſh, and other proviſions, that they ſhould

251 231 have a place ſheltered from the heat of the ſun, and at the ſame time perfectly expoſed to the air. Under the collonnades or ruſtic porticos, which form the lower part of their balagans, they find this convenience; and there they hang their fiſh, either to the ceiling or to the ſides, that it may be out of the reach of the voraciouſneſs of their dogs. The Kamtſchadales make uſe of dogs* to draw their ſledges; the beſt, that is the moſt vicious, have no other kennel than what the portico of the balagans affords them, to the poſts of which they are tied. Such are the advantages reſulting from the ſingular mode of conſtructing the balagans, or ſummer habitations of the Kamtſchadales.

Thoſe of winter are leſs ſingular; and if equally

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* As I ſhall ſoon be obliged to adopt this mode of travelling, I ſhall defer my deſcription of the dogs till that period.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

Thoſe OF WINTER ARE LEſS ſINGULAR; AND IF
equally large, would exactly reſemble the
342 habitations of the Ruſſian peaſants. Theſe
177 have been ſo often deſcribed, that it is univer-
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513 ſally known how they are conſtructed and
562 arranged. The iſbas are built of wood; that is to ſay, the walls are formed by placing long trees horizontally upon one another, and filling up the interſtices with clay. The roof ſlants like our thatched houſes, and is covered with coarſe graſs, or ruſhes, and frequently with planks. The interior part is divided into two rooms, with a ſtove placed ſo as to warm them both, and which ſerves at the ſame time as a fireplace for their cookery. On two ſides of the largeſt room, wide benches are fixed, and ſometimes a ſorry couch made of planks, and covered with bears ſkin. This is the bed of the chief of the family: and the women, who in this country are the ſlaves of their huſbands, and perform all the

562 the moſt laborious offices, think themſelves
352 happy to be allowed to ſleep in it.

Beſides theſe benches and the bed, there is alſo a table, and a great number of images of different ſaints, with which the Kamtſchadales are as emulous of furniſhing their chambers, as the majority of our celebrated connoiſſeurs are of diſplaying their magnificent paintings.

342 The windows, as may be ſuppoſed, are
237 neither large or high. The panes are made of the ſkins of ſalmon, or the bladders of various animals, or the gullets of ſea wolves prepared, and ſometimes of leaves of talc; but this is rare, and implies a ſort of opulence. The fiſh ſkins are ſo ſcraped and dreſſed that they become tranſparent, and admit a feeble light to the room*;

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* They produce an effect ſomewhat ſimilar to the oiled paper in the windows of our manufactories.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

317 but objects cannot be ſeen through them.
342 The leaves of talc are more clear, and approach nearer to glaſs; in the mean time they are not ſufficiently tranſparent for perſons without to ſee what is going on within: this is manifeſtly no inconvenience to ſuch low houſes.

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.62 Every oſtrog is preſided by a chief, called *toyon*. This kind of magiſtrate is choſen from among the natives of the country, by a plurality of voices. The Ruſſians have preſerved to them this priviledge, but the election muſt be approved by the juriſdiction of the province. This toyon is merely a peaſant, like thoſe whom he judges and governs; he has no mark of diſtinction, and performs the ſame labours as his ſubordinates. His office is chiefly to watch over the police, and inſpect the execution of the orders of government. Under him is another Kamtſchadale, choſen by

by the toyon himſelf, to aſſiſt him in the exerciſe of his functions, or ſupply his place. This vice-toyon is called *yeſaoul*, a Coſſac title adopted by the Kamtſchadales ſince the arrival of the Coſſacs in their peninſula, and which ſignifies ſecond chief of their band or clan. It is neceſſary to add, that when the conduct of theſe chiefs is conſidered as corrupt, or excites the complaints of their inferiors, the Ruſſian officers preſiding over them, or the other tribunals eſtabliſhed by government, diſmiſs them immediately from their functions, and nominate others more agreeable to the Kamtſchadales, with whom the right of election ſtill remains.

000 The rain continuing, we were unable to proceed on our journey; but my curioſity led me to embrace a ſhort interval that offered in the courſe of the day, to walk

000 of bears, who are attracted by the fiſh with which theſe rivers abound. The inhabitants aſſured me, that fifteen or eighteen were frequently ſeen together upon theſe banks, and that whenever they hunted them, they were ſure to bring back one or two, at leaſt, in the ſpace of twenty-four hours. I ſhall ſoon have occaſion to ſpeak of their chace, and their weapons.

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501 We quitted Paratounka and reſumed our journey; twenty horſes ſufficed for ourſelves and our baggage, which was not conſiderable, M. Kaſloff having taken the precaution of ſending a great part of it by water, as far as the oſtrog of Koriaki. The river Avatſcha has no tide, and is not navigable farther than this oſtrog; and not at all indeed, except by ſmall boats, called *batts*. The baidirs only ſerve to croſs the bay of Avatſcha, and can proceed no farther than the mouth of the river, where

133 their lading is put into theſe batts, which, 501 from the ſhallowneſs and rapidity of the water, are puſhed forward with poles. It was in this manner our effects arrived at Koriaki.

000 As to ourſelves, having croſſed the river Paratounka at a ſhallow, and winded along ſeveral of its branches, we left it for a way that was woody and leſs level, but which afforded us better travelling; it was almoſt entirely in valleys, and we had only two mountains to climb. Our horſes, notwithſtanding their burthens, advanced very briſkly. We had no reaſon to complain of the weather for a ſingle moment; it was ſo fair, that I began to think the rigour of the climate had been exaggerated; but ſhortly after, experience too well convinced me of its truth, and in the ſequel of my journey, I had every reaſon to accuſtom myſelf to the moſt piercing froſts, too happy

000 when in the midſt of ice and ſnow, that I had not to contend with the violence of whirlwinds and tempeſts.

We were about ſix or ſeven hours in going from Paratounka to Koriaki, which, as far as I could judge, is from thirty-eight to forty werſts. Scarcely arrived, we were obliged to take refuge in the houſe of the *toyon*, to ſhelter ourſelves from the rain; he ceded his iſba to M. Kaſloff, and we ſpent the night there.

361 The oſtrog of Koriaki is ſituated in the midſt of a coppice wood, and upon the border of the river Avatſcha, which becomes very narrow in this part. Five or ſix iſbas, and twice, or at moſt three times the number of balagans, make up this village, which is ſimilar to that of Paratounka, except that it is leſs, and has no pariſh church. I obſerved in general that oſtrogs of ſo little

361 conſideration were not provided with a church.

361 515 The next day we mounted our horſes and took the way to Natchikin, another oſtrog in the Bolcheretſk route. We were to ſtop a few days in the neighbourhood for the ſake of the baths, which M. Kaſloff had conſtructed at his own expence, for the benefit and pleaſure of the inhabitants, upon the hots ſprings that are found there, and which I ſhall preſently deſcribe. The way from Koriaki to Natchikin is tolerably commodious, and we croſſed without difficulty all the little ſtreams that fall from the mountains, at the foot of which we paſſed. About three-fourths of the way we met the Bolchaia-reka*; from the ſite of its greateſt breadth, which in this place is about ten or twelve yards, it appears to wind to a conſiderable extent to the north eaſt; we jour-

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* A Ruſſian name which ſignifies, *large river.*

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000 neyed on its bank for ſome time, till we
came to a little mountain, which we were
obliged to paſs over in order to reach the
village. A heavy rain which came on as
we left Koriaki, ceaſed a few minutes after;
but the wind having changed to the north-
weſt, the heavens became obſcured, and we
had abundance of ſnow; we were about
two-thirds of our way, and it continued till
361 our arrival. I remarked that the ſnow already
515 covered the mountains, even ſuch as
were loweſt, upon which it deſcribed an
equal line at a certain elevation, but that
below them no traces of it were yet perceptible.
We forded the Bolchaia-reka,
and found on the other ſide the oſtrog of
Natchikin, where I counted ſix or ſeven
iſbas and twenty balagans, ſimilar to what
I had ſeen before. We made no ſtay there,
M. Kaſloff thinking it proper to haſten immediately
to the baths, to which I was in-

515 clined as much from curioſity as from neceſſity.

000 The ſnow had penetrated through my clothes, and in croſſing the river, which was deep, I had made my legs and feet wet. I longed therefore to be able to change my dreſs, but when we came to the baths our baggage was not arrived. We propoſed drying ourſelves by walking about the environs, and obſerving the intereſting objects which I expected to find there. I was charmed with every thing I ſaw, but the dampneſs of the place, added to that of our clothes, gave us ſuch a chillineſs that we quickly put an end to our walk. Upon our return we had a new ſource of regret and impatience. Unable either to dry ourſelves or change our dreſs, our equipage not being arrived, to complete our misfortune, the place to which we had retired was the dampeſt we could have choſen, and though

it

000 it ſeemed ſufficiently ſheltered, the wind penetrated on every ſide. M. Kaſloff had recourſe to the bath, which quickly reſtored him; but not daring to follow his example, I was obliged to wait the arrival of our baggage. The damp had penetrated to ſuch a degree that I ſhivered during the whole night.

133 515 312 343 The next day I made a trial of theſe baths, and can ſay that none ever afforded me ſo much pleaſure or ſo much benefit. But before I proceed, I muſt deſcribe the ſource of theſe hot waters, and the building conſtructed for bathing.

They are two werſts to the north of the oſtrog[1], and about a hundred yards from the bank of the Bolchaia-reka, which it is neceſſary to croſs a ſecond time in order to arrive at the baths, on account of the elbow which the river deſcribes below the village. A thick

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[1] [Natchikin (Nachiki ?)--Analyst]

133 and continual vapour aſcends from theſe
515 waters, which fall in a rapid caſcade from a
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343 rather ſteep declivity, three hundred yards
from the place where the baths are erected. In their fall, which is in a direction eaſt and weſt, they form a ſmall ſtream of a foot and half deep, and ſix or ſeven feet wide. At a little diſtance from the Bolchaia-reka, this ſtream is met by another, with which it pours itſelf into this river. At their conflux, which is about eight or nine hundred yards from the ſource, the water is ſo hot that it is not poſſible to keep the hand in it for half a minute.

M. Kaſloff has been careful to erect his building on the moſt convenient ſpot, and where the temperature of the water is moſt moderate. It is conſtructed of wood, in the middle of a ſtream, and is in the proportion of ſixteen feet long by eight wide. It is divided into two apartments, each of ſix

133 or ſeven ſeet ſquare, and as many high:
312 the one which is neareſt to the ſide of
515 the ſpring, and under which the water is
343 conſequently warmer, is appropriated for bathing; the other ſerves for a dreſſing-room; and for this purpoſe there are wide benches above the level of the water; in the middle alſo a certain ſpace is left to waſh if we be diſpoſed. There is one circumſtance that renders theſe baths very agreeable, the warmth of the water communicates itſelf ſufficiently to the dreſſing-room to prevent us from catching cold; and it penetrates the body to ſuch a degree, as to be felt even for the ſpace of an hour or two after we have left the bath.

We lodged near theſe baths in a kind of barns, covered with thatch, and whoſe timber work conſiſted of the trunks and branches of trees. We occupied two, which had been built on purpoſe for us, 000 and in ſo ſhort a time, that I knew not how to credit the report; but I had ſoon the conviction of my own eyes. That which was to the ſouth of the ſtream, having been found too ſmall and too damp, M. Kaſloff ordered another of ſix or eight yards extent, to be built on the oppoſite ſide, where the ſoil was leſs ſwampy. It was the buſineſs of a day; in the evening it was finiſhed, though an additional ſtaircaſe had been cut out to form a communication between the barn and the bathing houſe, whoſe door was to the north.

Our habitations being inſupportable during the night, on account of the cold, M. Kaſloff reſolved to quit them, four days after our arrival. We returned to the village to ſhelter ourſelves with the toyon; but the attraction of the baths led us back every day, oftener twice than once, and we ſcarcely ever came away without bathing.

The

177 The various conſtructions which M.
515 Kaſloff ordered for the greater convenience
757 of his eſtabliſhment, detained us two days
823 longer. Animated by a love of virtue and
humanity, he enjoyed the pleaſure of having
procured theſe ſalutary and pleaſant baths
for his poor Kamtſchadales. The uninformed
ſtate of their minds, or perhaps their
indolence, would, without his ſuccour, have
deprived them of this benefit, notwithſtanding
their extreme confidence in theſe
hot ſprings for the cure of a variety of diſeaſes*.
312 This made M. Kaſloff deſirous of
aſcertaining the properties of theſe waters;
we agreed to analyſe them, by means of a
proceſs which had been given him for this
purpoſe. But before I ſpeak of the reſult
of our experiments, it is neceſſary to tranſcribe
the proceſs, in order the better to
trace the mode we adopted.

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* Formerly they dared not approach theſe ſprings, or any volcano, from the idea that they were the abode of evil ſpirits.

Water

[The Governor-General of Okhotsk and Kamchatka--Analyst]

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

312 " Water in general may contain,

" 1. Fixed air; in that caſe it has a " ſharp and ſouriſh taſte, like lemonade, " without ſugar.

" 2. Iron or copper; and then it has " an aſtringent and diſagreeable taſte, like " ink.

" 3. Sulphur, or ſulphurous vapours; and " then it has a very nauſeous taſte, like " a ſtale and rotten egg.

" 4. Vitriolic, or marine, or alkaline ſalt.

" 5. Earth."

Fixed Air.

" To aſcertain the fixed air, the taſte is " partly ſufficient; but pour into the water " ſome tincture of turnſol, and the water

312 “ will become more or leſs red, in proportion to the quantity of fixed air it contains.”

Iron.

“ The iron may be known by means of “ the galnut and phlogiſticated alkali; the “ galnut put into feruginous water, will “ change its colour to purple, or violet, or “ black; and the phlogiſticated alkali will “ produce immediately Pruſſian blue.”

Copper.

“ Copper may be aſcertained by means “ of the phlogiſticated alkali or volatile alkali; the firſt turns the water to a brown “ red, and the ſecond to a blue. The laſt “ mode is the ſureſt, becauſe the volatile “ alkali precipitates copper only, and not “ iron.”

Sulphur.

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

Sulphur.

312 " Sulphur and ſulphurous vapours may " be known by pouring, 1. nitrous acid into " the water; if a yellowiſh or whitiſh ſediment be formed by it, there is ſulphur, and " at the ſame time a ſulphurous odour will " be exhaled and evaporate. 2. By pouring " ſome drops of a ſolution of corroſive ſublimate; if it occaſion a white ſediment, the " water contains only vapours of liver of " ſulphur; and if the ſediment be black, the " water contains ſulphur only.

Vitriolic Salt.

" Water may contain vitriolic ſalts; that " is ſalts reſulting from the combination of " the vitriolic acid with calcareous earth, " iron, copper, or with an alkali. The vitriolic acid may be aſcertained by pouring " ſome drops of a ſolution of heavy earth; " for then a ſandy ſediment will be formed, " which will ſettle ſlowly at the bottom of " the veſſel.

Marine

Marine Salt.

" Water may contain marine ſalt, which " may be aſcertained by pouring into it ſome " drops of a ſolution of ſilver; a white ſediment will immediately be formed of the " conſiſtency of curdled milk, which will at " laſt turn to a dark violet colour.

Fixed Alkali.

" Water may contain fixed alkali, which " may be aſcertained by pouring into it " ſome drops of a ſolution of corroſive ſublimate; when a reddiſh ſediment will be " formed.

Calcareous Earth.

" Water may contain calcareous earth " and magneſia. Some drops of acid of " ſugar poured into the water, will precipitate the calcareous earth in whitiſh " clouds, which will at length ſubſide and

312 " afford a white ſediment. A few drops of " a ſolution of corroſive ſublimate, will pro" duce a reddiſh ſediment, but very gra" dually, if the water contain magneſia.

" Note. To make theſe experiments with " readineſs and certainty, the water to be " analyſed ſhould be reduced one half by " boiling it, except in the caſe of the fixed " air, which would evaporate in the boiling."

Having thoroughly ſtudied the proceſs, we began our experiments. The three firſt producing no effect, we concluded that the water contained neither fixed air, iron, nor copper; but upon the mixture of the nitrous acid, mentioned for the fourth experiment, we perceived a light ſubſtance ſettle upon the ſurface, of a whitiſh colour, and extending but a little way, which led us to believe that the quantity of ſulphur, or

312 of ſulphurous vapours, muſt be infinitely ſmall.

The fifth experiment proved that the water contained vitriolic ſalts, or at leaſt vitriolic acid mixed with calcareous earth. We aſcertained the exiſtence of this acid, by pouring ſome drops of a ſolution of heavy earth into the water, which became white and nebulous, and the ſediment that ſlowly ſettled at the bottom of the veſſel appeared whitiſh and in very fine grains.

We had no ſolution of ſilver for the ſixth experiment, in order to aſcertain whether the water contained marine ſalt.

The ſeventh proved that it had no fixed alkali.

By the eighth experiment, we found that the water contained a great quantity of

312 calcareous earth, but no magneſia. Having poured ſome drops of acid of ſugar, we obſerved the calcareous earth precipitate to the bottom of the veſſel in clouds and a powder of a whitiſh colour; we mixed afterwards ſome ſolution of corroſive ſublimate to find the magneſia; but the ſediment, inſtead of becoming red, preſerved the ſame colour as before; a proof that the water contained no magneſia.

We made uſe of this water for tea and for our common drink. It was not till after three or four days that we found it contained ſome ſaline particles.

M. Kaſloff boiled alſo ſome of the water taken at the ſpring, till it became totally evaporated; the whitiſh and very ſalt earth or powder which remained at the bottom of the veſſel, as well as the effect it produced

on

312 on us, proved that this water contained nitrous ſalts.

We remarked alſo that the ſtones taken out of this ſtream were covered with a calcareous ſubſtance tolerably thick, and of an undulated appearance, which, when mixed with the vitriolic and nitrous acid, produced ſymptoms of efferveſcence. We examined others taken from what appeared to be the fountain head of the waters, and where they have the greateſt degree of heat; we found them covered with a ſtratum of a kind of metal, if I may ſo call a hard and compact envelopement of the colour of refined copper, but the quality of which we could not aſcertain; we found alſo ſome of this metal, which appeared like the heads of pins; but no acid could diſſolve it. Upon breaking theſe ſtones, we diſcovered the inſide to be very ſoft and mixed with gravel, 312 with which I had obſerved theſe ſtreams to abound.

I ought to add here, that we diſcovered upon the border of the ſtream, and in a little moving ſwamp that was near it, a gum, or ſingular *fucus* *, that was glutinous, but did not adhere to the ground.

Such are the obſervations which I made upon theſe hot waters, by aſſiſting M. Kaſloff in his experiments and enquiries. I dare not flatter myſelf with having given the reſult of our operations in a ſatisfactory manner; forgetfulneſs, or want of information upon the ſubject, may have led me into errors; I can only ſay that I have exerted all my attention and care to be accurate; but acknowledge at the ſame time,

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* M. Kaſloff gave ſome of this gum to one of the naturaliſts of our expedition, the abbé Mongés, while the frigates were at Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

312 that if there be defects, they are aſcribable to me.

During our ſtay at theſe baths and at the oſtrog of Natchikin, our horſes had brought, at different times, the effects which we had left at Koriaki, and we began to make pre-
224 parations for our departure. In this interval I had an opportunity of ſeeing a ſable taken alive; the method was very ſingular, and may give ſome idea of the manner of hunting theſe animals.

At ſome diſtance from the baths, M. Kaſloff remarked a numerous flight of ravens, who all hovered over the ſame ſpot, ſkimming continually along the ground. The regular direction of their flight led us to ſuſpect that ſome prey attracted them. Theſe birds were in reality purſuing a ſable. We perceived it upon a birch-tree, ſurrounded by another flight of ravens, and

224 we had immediately a ſimilar deſire of taking it. The quickeſt and ſureſt way would doubtleſs have been to have ſhot it; but our guns were at the village, and it was impoſſible to borrow one of the perſons who accompanied us, or indeed in the whole neighbourhood. A Kamtſchadale happily drew us from our embaraſſment, by undertaking to catch the ſable. He adopted the following method. He aſked us for a cord; we had none to give him but that which faſtened our horſes. While he was making a running knot, ſome dogs, trained to this chace, had ſurrounded the tree: the animal, intent upon watching them, either from fear, or natural ſtupidity, did not ſtir; and contented himſelf with ſtretching out his neck, when the cord was preſented to him. His head was twice in the nooſe, but the knot ſlipped. At length, the ſable having thrown himſelf upon the ground, the dogs flew to ſeize him; but he preſently freed him-

him-

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

224 himſelf, and with his claws and teeth laid hold of the noſe of one of the dogs, who had no reaſon to be pleaſed with his reception. As we were deſirous of taking the animal alive, we kept back the dogs; the ſable quitted immediately his hold, and ran up a tree, where, for the third time, the nooſe, which had been tied anew, was preſented to him; it was not till the fourth attempt that the Kamtſchadale ſucceeded*. I could not have imagined that an animal, who has ſo much the appearance of cunning, would have permitted himſelf to be caught in ſo ſtupid a manner, and would himſelf have placed his head in the ſnare
224 that was held up to him. This eaſy mode
433 of catching ſables, is a conſiderable reſource
651 to the Kamtſchadales, who are obliged to

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* M. Kaſloff, who preſided in this chace, had the politeneſs to make me a preſent of this ſable, called in this country *ſobol*, and promiſed to add it to another, that I might bring a couple with me to France.

651 pay their tribute in ſkins of theſe animals, as I ſhall explain hereafter *.

132 Two phenomena in the heavens were obſerved at the north-weſt, during the nights of the 13 and 14. From the deſcription that was given of them, we judged that they were auroræ boreales, and we lamented that we were not informed time enough to ſee them. The weather had been tolerably fair during our ſtay at the baths; but the weſtern part of the ſky had been almoſt conſtantly charged with very thick clouds. The wind varied from weſt to north-weſt, and gave us now and then a ſhower of ſnow, which did not yet acquire conſiſtency, notwithſtanding the froſts which we experienced every night.

000 Our departure was fixed for the 17 October,

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* Theſe ſkins are not only a conſiderable branch of commerce, but ſerve as a ſpecies of money with the Kamtſchadales.

[October, 1787--analyst]

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

000 ber, and the 16 was ſpent in the hurry and buſtle which the laſt preparations generally occaſion. The reſt of our route, as far as Bolcheretſk, was to be upon the Bolchaia-reka. Ten ſmall boats, which properly ſpeaking, appeared to be merely trees ſcooped out in the ſhape of canoes, two and two laſhed together, ſerved as five floats for the conveyance of ourſelves and part of our effects. We were obliged to leave the greater part at Natchikin, on account of the impoſſibility of loading theſe floats with the whole, and there were no means of increaſing them. We had already collected all the canoes that were in the village, and even ſome of our ten had been brought from the oſtrog of Apatchin, to which we were going.

133 The 17, at break of day, we embarked
137 upon theſe floats. Four Kamtſchadales, by means of long poles, conducted our rafts. But

133 But they were frequently obliged to place
137 themſelves in the water, in order to haul
them along ; the depth of the river in ſome
places being no more than one or two feet,
000 and in others leſs than ſix inches. Preſently one of our floats received an injury ; it was preciſely that which was freighted with our baggage, and we were obliged to unlade every thing upon the bank, in order to refit it. We waited not, but preferred leaving it behind, in order to proceed on our route. At noon another accident, much more deplorable for men whoſe appetites began to be clamorous, occaſioned us a further delay. The float in which our cookery was embarked, ſunk all at once before our eyes. It will be ſuppoſed we did not ſee the loſs which threatened us, with indifferenc ; we were eager to ſave the wreck of our proviſions ; and for fear of a greater miſfortune, we wiſely reſolved to dine before we proceeded any farther. Our dinner

000 ner tended gradually to diſpel our fears, and gave us courage to diſcharge the water which over-loaded our boats, and to reſume our voyage. We had not advanced a werſt, before we met two boats coming to our aſſiſtance from Apatchin. We ſent them to the ſuccour of the damaged float, and to ſupply the place of the boats which were unfit for ſervice. As we continued to advance at the head of our embarkations, we at laſt entirely loſt ſight of them; but we met with nothing diſaſtrous till the evening.

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137 I obſerved that the Bolchaia-reka, in the windings which it continually made, ran nearly in the direction of eaſt-north-eaſt and weſt-ſouth-weſt. Its current is very rapid; it appeared to me to flow at the rate of five knots an hour; in the meantime the ſtones and the ſhoals which we met with every inſtant, obſtructed our paſ-

133 ſage to ſuch a degree, as to render the labour
137 of our conductors truly painful. They avoided them with aſtoniſhing addreſs, but as we approached nearer the mouth of the river, I obſerved with pleaſure that it became wider and more navigable. I was equally ſurpriſed to ſee it divide into I know not how many branches, which united again, after having watered a variety of little iſlands, of which ſome are covered with wood. The trees are every where very ſmall and very buſhy; we met with a conſiderable number growing here and there in the very river itſelf, which increaſe ſtill farther the difficulty of the navigation, and prove the careleſſneſs, I may ſay the ſloth, of theſe people. It never occurs to them to root out theſe trees, and thus open a more eaſy paſſage.

136 Different ſpecies of water-fowl, ſuch as ducks, plovers, goëlands, divers, and others,

divert

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

136 divert themſelves in this river,1 the ſurface of which is ſometimes covered by them; but it is difficult to approach near enough to ſhoot them. Game does not appear to be ſo common. But for the tracks of the bears, and the half-devoured fiſh, which continually preſented themſelves to our view, I ſhould have believed that they had impoſed upon me, or at leaſt that they had exaggerated, in telling me of the multitude of theſe animals with which the country abounds; we could perceive none; but we ſaw a great number of black eagles, and others that had white wings; magpies, ravens, ſome partridges, and an ermine walking by the ſide of the river.

000 Upon the approach of night, M. Kaſloff rightly judged that it would be more prudent to ſtop, than to continue our route, with the apprehenſion of encountering obſtacles ſimilar to what had already impeded our

[Bolchaia-reka--analyst]

000 our navigation. How were we to ſurmount them? we were unacquainted with the river; and in the obſcurity of the night, the leaſt accident might prove fatal to us. Theſe conſiderations determined us to leave our boats, and to paſs the night on the right-hand bank of the river, at the entrance of a wood, and near the place where captain King and his party halted *. A good fire warmed and dried our whole company. M. Kaſloff had taken the precaution to place in his float the accoutrements of a tent; and while we were pitching it, which was done in a moment, we had the ſatisfaction to ſee two of our floats arrive, which had not been able to keep up with us. The pleaſure which this reunion afforded us, the fatigue of the day, the convenience of the tent, and our beds, which we had fortunately brought with us, all

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* See Cook's Voyage, vol. III. p. 208.

contributed to make us paſs a moſt comfortable night.

133 361 The next day we fitted ourſelves out early and without difficulty. We arrived in four hours at Apatchin, but our floats could not come up as far as the village, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water. We landed about four hundred yards from the oſtrog, and atchieved this ſhort diſtance on foot.

This village did not appear to me ſo conſiderable as the preceding ones, that is, it contained perhaps three or four habitations leſs. It is ſituated in a ſmall plain, watered by a branch of the Bolchaïa-reka; and on the ſide oppoſite to the oſtrog is an extent of wood, which I conceived might be an iſland formed by the different branches of this river.

361 I learned by the way, that the oſtrog of Apatchin, as well as that of Natchikin, had not been always where they are at preſent. It is within a few years only that the inhabitants, attracted without doubt by the ſituation, or the hope of better and more commodious fiſhing, removed their houſes to this place. The diſtance of the new oſtrog from the former one is, as I was told, about four or five werſts.

133 Apatchin afforded nothing intereſting. I left it to join our floats, which had paſſed the ſhallows, and were waiting for us three werſts from the oſtrog, at the ſpot where the branch of Bolchaïa-reka, after having made a circuit round the village, returns again to its channel. The farther we advanced, the deeper and more rapid we found it; ſo that nothing impeded our courſe the whole way to Bolcheretſk, where we arrived at ſeven o'clock in the evening, accom-

000 which appeared to him to be neceſſary; but not ſatisfied with this, he would go himſelf to ſee them carried into execution. He invited me to accompany him, which I accepted with cheerfulneſs, promiſing myſelf much pleaſure from having an opportunity of viewing the mouth of the Bolchaïa-reka, and the harbour which is formed by it.

We ſet off at eleven o'clock in the morning, upon two floats, of which one, that which carried us, was formed of three canoes. Our conductors made uſe of oars and ſometimes of their poles, which frequently in difficult and ſhallow paſſages, enabled them to reſiſt the impetuoſity of the current, by keeping back the float, which would otherwiſe have been carried along with rapidity and infallibly overturned.

The Biſtraïa, another very rapid river,

The BIſTRAÏA, ANOTHER VERY RAPID RIVER
133 and larger than the Bolchaïa-reka, joins it
361 to the weſt, about the diſtance of half a werſt from Bolcheretſk. It loſes its name at the conflux, and takes that of the Bolchaïa-reka, which is rendered very conſiderable by this addition, and empties itſelf into the ſea at the diſtance of thirty werſts.

We landed at ſeven o'clock in the evening at a little hamlet called *Tchekafki*. Two iſbas, two balagans, and a yourt almoſt in ruins, were all the habitations I could perceive. There was alſo a wretched warehouſe, made of wood, to which they give the name of magazine, becauſe it belongs to the crown, and firſt receives the ſupplies with which the galliots from Okotſk* are freighted. The hamlet was built as a guard to this magazine. We paſſed the night

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* When theſe galliots are obliged to winter here, they harbour in the mouth of a narrow and deep river, which pours itſelf into the Bolchaïa-reka, about fifty yards from the hamlet, higher up.

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night in one of the iſbas, reſolving to repair early in the morning to the wreck.

At break of day we embarked upon our floats. It was low water; we coaſted along a dry and very extenſive ſand bank, at the left of the Bolchaïa-reka, as we advanced towards the ſea, and which leaves to the north a paſſage of only eight or ten fathoms wide, and two and a half deep. The wind, which blew freſh from the north-weſt, ſuddenly agitated the river, and we dared not riſk ourſelves in the channel. Our boats alſo were ſo ſmall, that a ſingle wave half filled them; two men were conſtantly employed in throwing out the water, and were ſcarcely able to effect it. We advanced therefore as far as we could along this bank.

At length we perceived the maſt of the galliot above a neck of low land that ex-

000 tended to the ſouth. It appeared to be
about two werſts from us, ſouth of the entrance
of the Bolchaïa-reka. At the point
of land juſt mentioned, we diſcovered the
light houſe, and the cot of the perſons appointed
to guard the wreck: unfortunately
we could only ſee all this at a diſtance. The
direction of the river, from the place where
it empties itſelf into the ſea, appeared to
me to be north-weſt, and its opening to be
133 half a werſt wide. The light-houſe is on
361 the left coaſt, and on the right is the continuation
of the low land, which the ſea
overflows in tempeſtuous weather, and which
extends almoſt as far as the hamlet of Tchekafki.
The diſtance of the hamlet from the
mouth of the river is from ſix to eight
werſts. The nearer we approach the entrance,
the more rapid is the current.

It was not poſſible to purſue our voyage;
the wind became ſtronger, and the waves

increaſed

000 increaſed every moment. It would have been the height of imprudence to quit the ſand bank, and croſs, in ſuch foul weather and ſuch feeble boats, two werſts of deep water, which is the width of the bay formed by the mouth of the river. The governor, who had already met with ſome proofs of my little knowledge of navigation, was very anxious however to conſult me upon this occaſion. My advice was to tack about, and return to the hamlet where we had ſlept; which was executed immediately. We had great reaſon to be pleaſed with our prudence; ſcarcely were we arrived at Tchekaſki when the weather became terrible.

133 I conſoled myſelf with the idea, that I had at leaſt obtained my end, which was to ſee the entrance of the Bolchaïa-reka. I can aſſert with confidence, that the acceſs to it is very dangerous, and impracticable

133 to ſhips of a hundred and fifty tons burthen. The Ruſſian veſſels are too frequently ſhipwrecked, not to open the eyes both of navigators who may be tempted to viſit this coaſt, and of the nations who may think of ſending them.

The port, beſides, affords no ſhelter. The low lands with which it is ſurrounded, are no protection againſt the winds which blow from every quarter. The banks alſo which the current of the river forms, are very variable, and of courſe it is almoſt impoſſible to know with certainty the channel, which muſt neceſſarily, from time to time, change it direction as well as its depth.

We paſſed the reſt of the day at Tchekafki, being unable to proceed to the ſhipwrecked veſſel, or to return to Bolcheretſk. The ſky, inſtead of clearing up, became covered on all ſides with ſtill blacker and

000 thicker clouds. Soon after our arrival, a dreadful tempeſt aroſe, and the Bolchaïa-reka became agitated to an extreme violence, even ſo high up as our hamlet. Its billows ſurpriſed me, becauſe of the little extent and depth of the river in this place. The point north-eaſt of its mouth, and the low land, which this gale of wind extended, formed but one breaker, over which the waves rolled with a horrible noiſe. The gale was not likely to abate, but I was on ſhore, and thought myſelf able to brave it. I took it into my head therefore, to go a hunting in the environs of the hamlet. I had ſcarcely advanced a few ſteps, when the wind ſeized me, and I felt myſelf ſtagger; my courage however did not fail me, and I perſevered; but coming to a ſtream, which it was neceſſary to croſs in a boat, I ran the moſt imminent riſk, and returned immediately, well puniſhed for my petty preſumption. Theſe dreadful hurricanes being

000 very common at this ſeaſon, it is not be wondered at that ſhipwrecks are ſo frequent on theſe coaſts: the veſſels are ſo ſmall as to have but one maſt; and, what is ſtill worſe, the ſailors who manage them, if report may be credited, have too little ſkill to be confided in.

The next day we reſumed our journey, and arrived at Bolcheretſk in the duſk of the evening.

As I forſee that my ſtay here will probably be long, from the neceſſity of waiting till ſledges can be uſed, I ſhall proceed with my deſcriptions, and the recital of what I have ſeen myſelf, or learned from my converſations with the Ruſſians and
361 Kamtſchadales. I ſhall begin with the
563 town, or fort of Bolcheretſk, for ſo it is called, in Ruſſia (*oſtrog*, or *krepoſt*).

It is ſituated on the border of the Bol-

chaïa-

361 chaïa-reka, in a ſmall iſland formed by dif-
563 ferent branches of this river, which divide the town into three parts more or leſs inhabited. The moſt diſtant diviſion, and which is fartheſt to the eaſt, is a kind of ſuburb called *Paranchine*; it contains ten or twelve iſbas. South eaſt of Paranchine, is the middle diviſion, where there is alſo a number iſbas, and among others, a row of wooden huts that ſerve for ſhops. Oppoſite to theſe is the guard-houſe, which is alſo the chancery, or court of juſtice*; this houſe is larger than the reſt, and is always guarded by a centinel. A ſecond branch of the Bolchaïa-reka again ſeparates, by a very narrow ſtream, this group of habitations, built without order, and ſcattered here and there, from another at the north-weſt, nearer the river. The river in this part flows in the direction

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* This guard-houſe is likewiſe uſed as a priſon, and even as a ſchool for children. The maſter of the ſchool is a Japaneſe; he is ſkilled in many languages, and is paid by government for inſtructing the children of this country.

361 direction of ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt, and
563 paſſes within fifty yards of the governor's houſe. This houſe is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the reſt; it is higher, larger, and is built like the wooden houſes of St. Peterſburg. Two hundred yards north-eaſt of this houſe, is the church; the conſtruction of which is ſimple, and like that of the village churches in Ruſſia. By the ſide of it is an erection of timber work, twenty feet high, covered only with a roof, under which three bells are ſuſpended. North-weſt of the governor's houſe, and ſeparated from it by a meadow or marſh about three hundred yards wide, is another group of dwellings, conſiſting of twenty-five or thirty iſbas, and ſome balagans. There are in general very few of theſe latter habitations at Bolcheretſk; the whole do not exceed ten; the iſbas and wooden houſes, without including the eight ſhops, the chancery, and the governor's houſe, amount to fifty or ſixty.

From

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

361 712 R 177 .71 From this minute deſcription of the fort of Bolcheretſk, it muſt appear ſtrange that it retains ſo inapplicable a name; for I can affirm, that no traces are to be found of fortifications, nor does it appear that there has ever been an intention of erecting any. The ſtate and ſituation, both of the town and its port, induce me to believe, that government have felt the innumerable dangers and obſtacles they would have to ſurmount, if they were to attempt to render it more flouriſhing, and make it the general depôt of commerce to the peninſula. Their views, as I have already obſerved, ſeem rather turned to the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, which for its proximity, ſafety, and eaſy acceſs, merits the preference.

563 There is a degree of civilization at Bolcheretſk, which I did not perceive at Petropavlofska. This ſenſible approach to European manners, occaſions a ſtriking differ-

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563 rence between the two places. I ſhall endeavour to point out and account for this as I proceed in my obſervations upon the inhabitants of theſe oſtrogs; for my principal object ſhould be, to give details of their employments, their cuſtoms, their taſtes, their diverſions, their food, their underſtandings, their character, their conſtitutions, and laſtly, the principles of government to which they are ſubjected.

The population of Bolcheretſk, including men, women and children, amounts to between two and three hundred. Among theſe inhabitants, reckoning the petty officers, there are ſixty or ſeventy Coſſacs, or ſoldiers, who are employed in all labours that relate to the ſervice of government*. Each in his turn mounts guard; they clear the ways; repair the bridges; unlade the

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* Their pay is ſo inconſiderable, that the receipt of a whole year would not ſuffice to maintain them for a ſingle month, if they had not the reſource of a petty fraudulent commerce, of which I ſhall preſently give an account.

563 proviſions ſent from Okotſk, and convey them from the mouth of the Bolchaïa-reka to Bolcheretſk. The reſt of the inhabitants are compoſed of merchants and ſailors.

563 437 273 Theſe people, Ruſſians and Coſſacs, together with a mixed breed found among them, carry on a clandeſtine commerce, ſometimes in one article, and ſometimes in another; it varies as often as they ſee any reaſon for changing it; but it is never with a view of enriching themſelves by honeſt means. Their induſtry is a continual knaviſhneſs; it is ſolely employed in cheating the poor Kamtſchadales, whoſe credulity and inſuperable propenſity to drunkenneſs, leave them entirely at the mercy of theſe dangerous plunderers. Like our mountebanks, and other knaves of this kind, they go from village to village to inveigle the too ſilly natives: they propoſe to ſell them brandy, which they artfully preſent to them

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563 to taſte. It is almoſt impoſſible for a Kamt-
437 ſchadale, male or female, to refuſe this offer.
273 The firſt eſſay is followed by many others; preſently their heads become affected, they are intoxicated, and the craft of the tempters ſucceed. No ſooner are they arrived to a ſtate of inebriety, than theſe pilferers know how to obtain from them the barter of their moſt valuable effects, that is, their whole ſtock of furs, frequently the fruit of the labour of a whole ſeaſon, which was to enable them to pay their tribute to the crown, and procure perhaps ſubſiſtance for a whole family. But no conſideration can ſtop a Kamtſchadale drunkard; every thing is forgotten, every thing is ſacrificed to the gratification of his appetite, and the momentary pleaſure of ſwallowing a few glaſſes of brandy*, reduces

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* This is well known to be the ruling paſſion of all the people of the north; but I have had more than one occaſion to obſerve, that the Kamtſchadales are inferior in this reſpect

437 duces him to the utmoſt wretchedneſs.
273 Nor is it poſſible for the moſt painful expe-
563 rience to put them on their guard againſt
their own weakneſs, or the cunning perfidy
of theſe traders, who in their turn drink,

reſpect to none of them. The following ſtory, among others, was told me, that I might be able to judge of the rapacity of theſe vagabond traders, and the ſtupid prodigality of their dupes.

A Kamtſchadale had given a ſable for a glaſs of brandy. Inflamed with a deſire of drinking another, he invited the ſeller into his houſe. The merchant thanked him, but ſaid he was in a hurry. The Kamtſchadale renewed his ſolicitations, and propoſed a ſecond bargain: he prevailed.—" Come, another glaſs for this ſable, it is a finer " one than the firſt.—No; I muſt keep the reſt of my " brandy; I have promiſed to ſell it at ſuch a place, and I " muſt be gone.—Stay a moment; here are two ſables.— " 'Tis all in vain.—Well, come, I will add another.— " Agreed, drink." Meanwhile the three ſables are ſeized, and the hypocrite makes a freſh pretence to come away: his hoſt redoubles his importunities to retain him, and demands a third glaſs: further refuſals and further offers: the higher the chapman raiſes his price, the more the Kamtſchadale is prodigal of his furs. Who would have ſuppoſed that it would have ended in the ſacrifice of ſeven moſt beautiful ſables for this laſt glaſs! they were all he had.

273 437 in like manner, all the profits of their knavery.

273 435 439 I ſhall terminate the article of commerce by adding, that the perſons who deal moſt in wholeſale, are merely agents of the merchants of Totma, Vologda, Grand Uſtiug, and different towns of Siberia, or the factors of other opulent traders, who extend even to this diſtant country their commercial ſpeculations.

All the wares and proviſions, which neceſſity obliges them to purchaſe from the magazines, are ſold exceſſively dear, and at about ten times the current price at Moſcow. A *vedro*[*] of French brandy coſts eighty roubles[†]. The merchants are al-

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[*] A Ruſſian meaſure containing from fifteen to twenty quarts.

[†] Eighteen pounds ſterling, eſtimating the rouble at four ſhillings and ſixpence.

273 lowed to traffic in this article; but the
435 brandy, diſtilled from corn, which is brought
439 177 from Okotſk, and that produced by the country, which is diſtilled from the *ſlatkaia-trava*, or ſweet herb, are ſold, upon government account, at forty one roubles ninety-ſix kopecks* the vedro. They can be ſold only in the *kabacs*, or public houſes, opened for that purpoſe. At Okotſk, the price of brandy diſtilled from corn is no more than eighteen roubles the vedro; ſo that the expence of freight is charged at twenty-three roubles ninety-ſix kopecks, which appears exorbitant, and enables us to form ſome judgment of the accruing profit.

The reſt of the merchandize conſiſts of nankins and other China ſtuffs, together with various commodities of Ruſſian and foreign manufacture, as ribands, handker-

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* Nine pounds nine ſhillings.

439 chiefs, ſtockings, caps, ſhoes, boots, and
177 other articles of European dreſs, which may be regarded as luxuries, compared with the extreme ſimplicity of apparel of the Kamtſchadales. Among the proviſion imported, there are ſugar, tea, a ſmall quantity of coffee, ſome wine, but very little, biſcuits, confections, or dried fruits, as prunes, raiſins, &c. and laſtly, candles, both wax and tallow, powder, ſhot, &c.

The ſcarcity of all theſe articles in ſo diſtant a country, and the need, whether natural or artificial, which there is for them, enable the merchants to ſell them at whatever exorbitant price their voracity may affix. In common, they are diſpoſed of almoſt immediately upon their arrival. The merchants keep ſhops, each of them occupying one of the huts oppoſite the guard-houſe; theſe ſhops are open every day, except feaſt days.

The

177 The inhabitants of Bolcheretſk differ not
291 from the Kamtſcadales in their mode of
563 living; they are leſs ſatisfied, however, with balagans, and their houſes are a little cleaner.

Their clothing is the ſame. The outer garment, which is called *parque*, is like a waggoner's frock, and is made of the ſkins of deer, or other animals, tanned on one ſide. They wear under this long breeches of ſimilar leather, and next the ſkin a very ſhort and tight ſhirt, either of nankin or cotton ſtuff; the women's are of ſilk, which is a luxury among them. Both ſexes wear boots; in ſummer, of goats or dogs ſkins tanned; and in winter, of the ſkins of ſea wolves, or the legs of rein deer*. The men conſtantly wear fur caps; in the mild ſeaſon they put on longer ſhirts of nankin,

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439 * Articles of apparel made of the ſkins of rein deer are procured from the Koriacs.

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or of ſkin without hair; they are made like the parque, and anſwer the ſame purpoſe, that is, to be worn over their other garments. Their gala dreſs, is a parque trimmed with otter ſkins and velvet, or other ſtuffs and furs equally dear. The women are clothed like the Ruſſian women, whoſe mode of dreſs is too well known to need a deſcription; I ſhall therefore only obſerve, that the exceſſive ſcarcity of every ſpecies of ſtuff at Kamtſchatka, renders the toilet of the women an object of very conſiderable expence: they ſometimes adopt the dreſs of the men.

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The principal food of theſe people conſiſts, as I have already obſerved, in dried fiſh. The fiſh are procured by the men, while the women are employed in domeſtic occupations, or in gathering fruits and other vegetables, which, next to the dried fiſh, are the favourite proviſions of the Kamtſchadales

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262 ſchadales and Ruſſians of this country.
222 When the women go out to make theſe har-
462 veſts for winter conſumption, it is high holy-
527 day with them, and the anniverſary is celebrated by a riotous and intemperate joy, that frequently gives riſe to the moſt extravagant and indecent ſcenes. They diſperſe in crouds through the country, ſinging and giving themſelves up to all the abſurdities which their imagination ſuggeſts; no conſideration of fear or modeſty reſtrains them. I cannot better deſcribe their licentious frenzy than by comparing it with the bacchanals of the Pagans. Ill betide the man whom chance conducts and delivers into their hands! however reſolute or however active he may be, it is impoſſible to evade the fate that awaits him; and it is ſeldom that he eſcapes, without receiving a ſevere flagellation.

Their proviſions are prepared nearly in the

THEIR PROVISIONS ARE PREPARED NEARLY IN

252 262 the following manner; it will appear, from the recital, that they cannot be accuſed of much delicacy. They are particularly careful to waſte no part of the fiſh. As ſoon as it is caught they tear out the gills, which they immediately ſuck with extreme gratification. By another refinement of ſenſuality or gluttony, they cut off alſo at the ſame time ſome ſlices of the fiſh, which they devour with equal avidity, covered as they are with clots of blood. The fiſh is then gutted, and the entrails reſerved for their dogs. The reſt is prepared and dried; when they eat it either boiled, roaſted, or broiled, but moſt commonly raw.

The food which the epicures eſteem moſt, and which appeared to me to be ſingularly diſguſting, is a ſpecies of ſalmon, called *tchaouitcha*. As ſoon as it is caught, they bury it in a hole; and in this kind of larder they leave it till it has had time to ſour, or,

properly

252 262 properly ſpeaking, become perfectly putrified. It is only in this ſtate of corruption that it attains the flavour moſt pleaſing to the delicate palates of theſe people. In my opinion the infectious odour that exhales from this fiſh, would ſuffice to repulſe the moſt hungry being; and yet a Kamtſchadale feeds voluptuouſly upon this rotten fleſh. How fortunate does he conſider himſelf when the head falls to his lot! this is deemed the moſt delicious morſel, and is commonly diſtributed into many parts. I frequently wiſhed to overcome my averſion, and taſte this ſo highly valued food; but my reſolution was unequal to it; and I was not only unable to taſte it, but even to bring it near my mouth; every time I attempted, the fetid exhalation which it emitted gave me a nauſea, and diſguſted me inſuperably.

262 372 The moſt common fiſh in Kamtſchatka are trouts, and ſalmon of different ſpecies;

262 ſea wolves are alſo eaten; the fat of this fiſh
372 is very wholeſome, and ſerves them beſide
for lamp oil.

136 Among the vegetables which are made
252 uſe of by the Kamtſchadales, the principal
262 are *ſarana* root, wild garlic, *ſlatkaïa-trava*,
or ſweet herb, and other plants and fruits
nearly ſimilar to what are found in Ruſſia.

The *ſarana* is known to botaniſts*. Its ſhape, its ſize, and its colour have been deſcribed at large in the third voyage of captain Cook. Its farinaceous root ſerves inſtead of bread †. It is dried before it is

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* By the name of *lilium flore atro rubente*.

† The Coſſacs uſe rye alſo, which makes a ſort of black bread, like that of the Ruſſian peaſants. Government allows them a certain quantity of rye flour, but it is inſufficient, and they are obliged to procure more at their own expence. Some of them lay it up in ſtore in order to profit by its future ſale.

136 252 262 273 uſed; but it is wholeſome and nouriſhing in whatever mode it may be prepared.

From the wild garlic[*] they make a harſh and fermented beverage, which has a very unpleaſant taſte; it is alſo uſed in various ſauces; the Kamtſchadales are very fond of it.

The ſlatkaïa-trava, or ſweet herb, is pleaſant enough when it is freſh. This plant[†] has alſo been minutely deſcribed by the Engliſh. It is highly eſteemed by the natives, particularly the ſpirit diſtilled from it. Soon after it is gathered, they ſlit it in two, and ſcrape out the pith with a muſcle-ſhell: they then dry it for winter, and

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[*] It is called in Kamtſchatka, *tſcheremſcha*. Gmelin denominates it: *allium foliis radicalibus petiolatis, floribus umbellatis*. Vol. 1. p. 49.

[†] *Spondilium foliolis pinnatifidis*. See Linn. The juice of the rind of this plant is ſo acrid, that it is impoſſible to touch it without bliſtering the hand. In gathering it they take care to wear gloves.

when

252 when they uſe it in their ragouts, it is pre-
439 viouſly boiled. Brandy is alſo diſtilled from
273 this ſweet herb, which, as I obſerved before, is ſold on account of government: for this purpoſe the plant is purchaſed of the Kamtſchadales*.

162 There are three ſorts of inhabitants, the
563 natives or Kamtſchadales, the Ruſſians and Coſſacs, and the deſcendants from intermarriages.

The indigenes, that is, thoſe whoſe blood is unmixed, are few in number; the ſmall pox has carried off three fourths of them, and the few that are left are diſperſed through the different oſtrogs of the peninſula; in Bolcheretſk it would be difficult to find more than one or two.

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* This brandy intoxicates much quicker than French brandy; whoever drinks it, is ſure to be extremely agitated during the night, and to feel the next day as melancholy and reſtleſs as if he had committed ſome crime.

The

142 The true Kamtſchadales are in general below the common height; their ſhape is round and ſquat, their eyes ſmall and ſunk, their cheeks prominent, their noſe flat, their hair black, they have ſcarcely any beard, and their complexion is a little tawny. The complexion and features of the women are very nearly the ſame; from this repreſentation, it will be ſuppoſed they are not very ſeducing objects.

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476 The character of the Kamtſchadales is mild and hoſpitable; they are neither knaves, nor robbers; they have indeed ſo little penetration, that nothing is more eaſy than to deceive them, as we have ſeen in the advantage that is taken of their propenſity to intoxication. They live together in the utmoſt harmony, and the more ſo, it would ſeem, on account of the ſmallneſs of their number. This unanimity diſpoſes them to aſſiſt one another in their labours,

476 bours, which is no ſmall proof of their zeal
157 to oblige, if we conſider the natural and ex-
461
515 treme ſlothfulneſs of their diſpoſition. An
active life would be inſupportable to them; and the greateſt happineſs, in their eſtimation, next to that of getting drunk, is to have nothing to do, and to live for ever in tranquil indolence. This is carried ſo far with theſe people, as frequently to make them neglect the means of providing the indiſpenſable neceſſaries of life; and whole families are often reduced to all the ſeverities of famine, becauſe they would not take the pains of providing in ſummer a reſerve of fiſh, without which they are unable to live. If they neglect in this manner the preſervation of their exiſtence, it is not to be ſuppoſed that they are more attentive to the article of cleanlineſs; it diſplays itſelf neither in their perſons, nor their habitations; and they may juſtly be reproached for being addicted to the contrary

515 trary extreme. Notwithſtanding this care-
157 leſſneſs, and other natural defects, it muſt be regretted that their number is not more conſiderable; as, from what I have ſeen, and what has been confirmed to me by different perſons, if we would be ſure of finding ſentiments of honour and humanity in this country, it is neceſſary to ſeek for them among the true Kamtſchadales; they have not yet bartered their rude virtues for the poliſhed vices of the Europeans ſent to civilize them.

177 It was at Bolcheretſk that I began to per-
563 ceive the effects of their influence. I ſaw the trace of European manners, leſs in the mixture of blood, in the conformation of features, and the idiom of the inhabitants, than in their inclinations and mode of life, which did not always diſcover any very conſiderable fund of virtue. This ſtriking difference between the inhabitants and

177 the indigenes, ſprings, in my opinion, from
563 the difficulties which lie in the road to civilization, and I will aſſign my reaſons.

Bolcheretſk, not long ago, was the chief place of Kamtſchatka, particularly as the governors had thought proper to eſtabliſh their reſidence there. The chiefs and their ſuites introduced European knowledge and manners: theſe, it is known, generally become adulterated in tranſmiſſion, according to the diſtance from the ſource. Meanwhile it is to be preſumed that the Ruſſian government was careful, as far as it was poſſible, to confide its authority and the execution of its orders, only to officers of acknowledged merit, if I may judge from thoſe who are at preſent employed; and it is therefore to be ſuppoſed that theſe officers, in the places of their reſidence, were ſo many examples of the virtues, the acquirements, and all the eſtimable qualities of

177 civilized nations. But unfortunately the
563 leſſons which thy gave, were not always ſo efficacious as might have been expected; either becauſe being only ſketches, they were not ſufficiently felt, or rather, not being imbibed in all their purity, they made but momentary or perhaps vicious impreſſions on the mind.

Theſe reformers found not the ſame zeal either in the Coſſacs who compoſed the garriſon, or in the merchants and other Ruſſian emigrants who ſettled in the peninſula. The diſpoſition to licencioufneſs, and the deſire of gain, which the firſt conquerors of a country almoſt always bring with them, and the continual development of theſe qualities, by the facility with which the natives may be duped, contributed to check the progeſs of reform. The fatal infection was ſtill more diffuſely ſpread by intermarriages, while the ſeed of the ſocial

177 virtues, which had been attempted to be
563 ſown, ſcarcely found a reception.

The conſequence has been, that the natives, or true Kamtſchadales, have preſerved almoſt univerſally their ignorant ſimplicity and uncultivated manners; and that a part of the reſt of the inhabitants, Ruſſians and mixed breed, who have ſettled themſelves in the oſtrogs where the governors reſide, ſtill retain indeed a faint ſhade of European manners, but not of ſuch as are moſt pure. We have already had a proof of this in what has been ſaid of their commercial principles, and my conviction has been rendered ſtronger during my abode at Bolcheretſk, by a cloſer ſtudy of the inhabitants, who, this faint ſhade excepted, differ little from the indigenes.

157 M. Kaſloff, and thoſe who accompanied
563 him, in imitation of his example, frequently
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give

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157 563 177 give entertainments or balls to the ladies of this oſtrog, who accept ſuch invitations with equal alacrity and joy. I had an opportunity of ſeeing that what I had been told was true; that theſe women, the Kamtſchadales as well as the Ruſſians, have a ſtrong propenſity to pleaſure; their eagerneſs indeed is ſo great, that they are unable to conceal it. The precoſity of the girls is aſtoniſhing, and ſeems not at all to be affected by the coldneſs of the climate.

177 563 With reſpect to the women of Bolcheretſk, who were preſent at theſe aſſemblies, and who were chiefly either of mixed blood or of Ruſſian parents, their figures in general did not appear diſagreeable, and I perceived ſome who might be conſidered as handſome: but the freſhneſs of youth is not of long duration; from child-bearing, or the painful labours to which they are ſubjected, it fades away almoſt in the flower

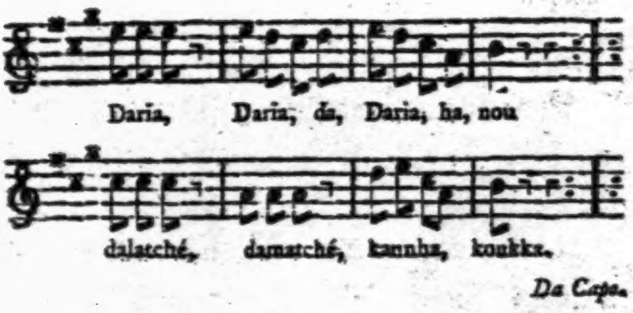
177 of their age. Their diſpoſition is extremely
563 cheerful; a little, perhaps, at the expence of decency. They endeavour to amuſe the company by every thing which their gaiety and playfulneſs can furniſh. They are fond of ſinging, and their voice is pleaſant and agreeable; it is only to be wiſhed that their muſic had leſs reſemblance to their ſoil, and approached nearer to our own. They ſpeak both the Ruſſian and Kamtſchadale languages, but they all preſerve the accent of the latter idiom. I little expected to ſee in this part of the world Poliſh dances, and ſtill leſs country dances in the Engliſh taſte; but what was my ſurpriſe to find that they had even an idea of a minuet! Whether my abode for twenty ſix months upon the ſea, had rendered me leſs faſtidious, or that the recollections they revived facinated my eyes, theſe dances appeared to be executed with tolerable preciſion, and more grace than I could have imagined.

The

177 The dancers of whom we ſpeak, have ſo
563 much vanity as to hold in contempt the
ſongs and dances of the natives. The toilet
of the women on theſe occaſions is an
object of no trivial attention. They deck
themſelves out in all their allurements, and
whatever is moſt coſtly. Theſe ceremonious
and ball dreſſes are principally of
ſilks; and in the article of commerce we
have already ſeen that they muſt be expenſive.
152 I ſhall finiſh this account with a remark
837 that I had occaſion to make, both in
theſe aſſemblies and in thoſe of the Kamtſchadales;
it is, that the majority of huſbands,
Ruſſians as well as natives, are not
ſuſceptible of jealouſy; they voluntarily
ſhut their eyes upon the conduct of their
wives, and are as docile as poſſible upon
this chapter.

533 The entertainments and aſſemblies of the
535 native Kamtſchadales, at which I was alſo

533 preſent, offered a ſpectacle equally enti-
535 tled to notice for its ſingularity. I know not which ſtruck me moſt, the ſong or the dance. The dance appeared to me to be that of ſavages. It conſiſted in making regular movements, or rather unpleaſant and difficult diſtortions, and in uttering at the ſame time a forced and gutteral ſound, like a continued hiccough, to mark the time of the air ſung by the aſſembly, the words of which are frequently void of ſenſe, even in Kamtſchadale. I noted down one of theſe airs, which I ſhall inſert in this place, in order to give an idea of their muſic and metre.


Daria, Daria, da, Daria, ha, nou
dalatché, damatché, kannha, koukka.
Da Capo.

The

533 The words mean,

Daria [*], Daria ſings and dances ſtill.

This air is repeated without ceaſing.

535 825 In their dances they are fond of imitating the different animals they purſue, ſuch as the partridge and others, but principally the bear. They repreſent its ſluggiſh and ſtupid gait, its different feelings and ſituations; as the young ones about their dam; the amourous ſports of the male with the female; and laſtly, its agitation when purſued. They muſt have a perfect knowledge of this animal, and have made it their particular ſtudy, for they repreſent all its motions as exactly, I believe, as it is poſſible. I aſked the Ruſſians, who were greater connoiſſeurs than myſelf, having been oftener preſent at the taking of theſe animals,

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[*] Daria is a female Ruſſian name.

535 whether their pantomime ballets were well
825 executed; and they aſſured me that the dancers were the beſt in the country, and that the cries, gait, and various attitudes of the bear, were as accurate as life. Meanwhile, without offence to the amateurs, theſe dances are, in my opinion, not leſs fatiguing to the ſpectators than to the performers. It is a real pain to ſee them diſtort their hips, diſlocate every limb, and wear out their lungs; to expreſs the exceſs of pleaſure which they take in theſe ſtrange balls, which, I repeat it, reſemble the abſurd diverſions of ſavages: the Kamtſchadales may indeed, in many reſpects, be conſidered as of that rank.

224 Having given an account of the addreſs with which theſe people counterfeit the poſtures and motions of the bear, who may be called their dancing maſter, it may not be unpleaſing to relate in what manner they

224 hunt this animal. There are various modes of attacking it; ſometimes they lay ſnares for it: under a heavy trap, ſupported in the air by a ſcaffolding ſufficiently high, they place ſome kind of bait to attract the bear, and which he no ſooner ſmells and perceives, than he eagerly advances to devour; at the ſame time he ſhakes the feeble ſupport of the trap, which falls upon his neck, and puniſhes his voraciouſneſs by cruſhing his head, and frequently his whole body. In paſſing the woods I have ſeen them caught in this way; the trap is kept baited till it ſucceeds, which ſometimes does not happen for almoſt a year. This method of taking them requires no great boldneſs, or fatigue; but there is another mode, very much adopted in this country, to which equal ſtrength and cou-
224 rage are neceſſary. A Kamtſchadale goes
411 out, either alone or in company, to find a bear. He has no other arms than his gun,

a kind

224 a kind of carabine whoſe but-end is very
411 ſmall; a lance or ſpear; and his knife. His ſtock of proviſion is made up in a bundle containing about twenty fiſh. Thus lightly equipped, he penetrates into the thickeſt part of the woods, and every place that is likely to be the haunt of this annimal. It is commonly in the briars, or among the ruſhes on the borders of lakes and rivers, that the Kamtſchadale poſts himſelf, and waits the approach of his adverſary with patience and intrepidity; if it be neceſſary, he will remain thus in ambuſcade for a whole week together, till the bear makes his appearance. The moment it comes within his reach, he fixes in the ground a forked ſtick* belonging to his gun, by means of which he takes a truer aim, and ſhoots with

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* The Kamtſchadales are unable to ſhoot without this means of reſting their gun, which, from the time required to prepare it, is evidently inconſiſtent with the celerity of this inſtrument, its chief advantage to a ſportſman.

224 411 more certainty. It is ſeldom that, with
the ſmalleſt ball, he does not ſtrike the bear
either in the head, or near the ſhoulder,
which is the tendereſt part. But he is obliged
to charge again inſtantly, becauſe the
bear, if the firſt ſhot has not diſabled him,
runs[*] at the hunter, who has not always
time for a ſecond ſhot. He has then recourſe
to his lance, with which he quickly
arms himſelf to contend with the beaſt, who
224 825 attacks him in his turn. His life is in danger[†]
if he does not give the bear a mortal
thruſt; and in ſuch combats, it may be ſup-

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[*] It is common enough alſo for it to take to flight, notwithſtanding its wound, and conceal itſelf in thickets or ruſhes, where it is traced by means of its blood, and found either dead or expiring.

[†] I was aſſured that when a bear triumphs over his aggreſſor, he tears the ſkin from the ſkull, draws it over his face, and then leaves him; a mode of revenge which implies, according to the Kamtſchadales, that this animal cannot bear the human aſpect; and this ſtrange prejudice ſupports them in the opinion of their ſuperiority, and ſeems to inſpire them with additional courage.

poſed

761 poſed the man is not always the conqueror;
224 but this does not prevent the inhabitants of this country from daily expoſing their lives; the frequent examples of the death of their countrymen has no effect upon them: indeed they never go out, without conſidering before hand that it is either to conquer or to die; and this ſevere alternatiue neither ſtops nor terrifies them*.

224 They hunt other animals nearly in the ſame manner, ſuch as rein deer, argali, or wild ſheep, called in Ruſſia *diki-barani*,

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* They hunt the bear in this manner in every ſeaſon of the year, except when the country is covered with ſnow; their method is then different. It is known that in winter the bear retreats to the den which he has fabricated during ſummer of the branches of trees; he continues there while the froſt laſts, either aſleep, or licking his paws. The Kamtſchadales purſue him in their ſledges, and attack him with their dogs, who oblige him to defend himſelf: he ruſhes from his lurking place to certain death; if he refuſe to come out, his fate is equally certain, and he is cruſhed to death under the ruins of his den.

224 foxes, otters, beavers, ſables, hares*, &c.
261 but they have not the ſame dangers to encounter; ſometimes they make uſe of ſnares, conſtructed of wood or iron, leſs than thoſe which are ſet for bears, and reſembling in their ſimplicity our pitfalls; no other attention is neceſſary than that of viſiting them from time to time. The Kamtſchadales ſometimes lie in ambuſh, armed in the manner I have deſcribed; and the only hardſhip they experience reſults from their proviſion being exhauſted in conſequence of the long duration of their chace. They frequently ſubmit to ſuffer hunger for many days together, rather than quit their ſtations till they have obtained the end of their purſuit; but they amply repay themſelves for this faſting, by immediately devouring the fleſh of the animals †, and by the plea-

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[*] Theſe animals are all deſcribed in Cook's voyage.

262 [†] The fleſh of bears, argali, and rain-deer, is conſidered by them as very wholeſome, the laſt particularly; I frequently feaſted upon it.

ſure

224 ſure with which they count over the ſkins they obtain from them.

136
·224 They chuſe for their chace the ſeaſons when the fur of the animal is in its greateſt perfection. Sables are hunted in the beginning of winter. Theſe animals live commonly in trees, and are called after their name; a part of the fur neareſt the ſkin being of the ſame colour as thoſe which they moſt frequent, as the birch, the fir, &c.

The moſt favourable ſeaſons for hunting foxes are autumn, winter, and ſpring. There are four different ſpecies. 1. The whitiſh red fox, which is leaſt eſteemed. 2. The red or bright red fox. 3. The fox called *ſévadouſchka*, the colour of which is a mixture of red, black, and grey. 4. The black fox, which is the ſcarceſt and moſt valuable: it is really of a deep and entire black, except that at the extremity of the fur upon

136 the back, which is the longeſt; a grey tint
224 is ſometimes perceptible. Some of this ſpecies are ſingularly valuable. There are two other ſpecies of the fox that may be added to theſe, though they are not regarded as ſuch in this country, the blue fox and the white fox. They are called in Ruſſia *galouboy peſſets*, and *beloy peſſets*; their fur is thicker than that of the reſt of the ſpecies. The foxes of the continent are in general more beautiful than thoſe caught in the different iſlands of the eaſt*, and produce an infinitely higher price.

Rein-deer are hunted in winter, and argali in autumn. Otters are extremely ſcarce in this country; but there is a great abundance of ermines, though, I know not for what reaſon, no pains are taken to catch

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* The Aleutienne iſlands, Schoumagine iſlands, Fox iſlands, &c.

224 them ; one would ſuppoſe they were of no value.

226 The Kamtſchadales have different ſeaſons alſo for fiſhing. Their ſalmon and trout ſeaſon is in June, their herring ſeaſon in May, and that of the ſea wolf in ſpring and ſummer, but principally in autumn.

They ſeldom uſe ſeines, but almoſt always common nets*, or a kind of harpoon, which they manage with great dexterity. Seines ſerve only for ſea wolves ; they are made of leather ſtraps, and the meſhes are very large. They have another mode of fiſhing,

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283 314 439 * Their nets are made of pack thread, like ours ; they purchaſe it of the Ruſſians : there is another kind however, which they fabricate themſelves from nettles, of which they take care to lay up a conſiderable ſtore. They gather them in autumn, tie them in bundles, and place them under their balagans to dry. When their fiſhing and harveſts are compleated, they prepare their nettles. They ſlit them, and then ſtrip off the rind expertly with their teeth ; the reſt they beat and ſhake till the filaments are ſeparated, and it is fit for ſpinning.

by

226 by cloſing up the river with ſtakes and branches of trees, ſo as to leave only a narrow paſſage for the fiſh, or ſometimes ſeveral, where they place baſkets, ſo conſtructed that, if the fiſh once enter, it is impoſſible for them to retreat.

231 Horſes are very ſcarce in Kamtſchatka.
492 I ſaw ſome at Bolcheretſk belonging to government, and intruſted to the care of the Coſſacs. They merely ſerve during ſummer for the carriage of merchandize and other effects of the crown, and for the convenience of travellers.

Dogs however abound in this country, and are ſo ſerviceable to the Kamtſchadales as to render the privation of the other domeſtic animals leſs felt by them. They ſerve all the purpoſes of carriage, and are fed without difficulty or expence, their food conſiſting entirely of the offals, or ſuch decayed

231 fiſh as are rejected by their maſters; and
492 even theſe are not allowed, unleſs when it is neceſſary. In ſummer, which is their ſeaſon of reſt, little care is taken of them; the dogs well know how to provide for themſelves, by ranging over the country and along the ſides of lakes and rivers; and the punctuality with which they return, is one of the moſt ſtriking proofs of the fidelity of theſe animals. When winter arrives, they dearly pay for the liberty and temporary repoſe they have enjoyed. Their labour and ſlavery begin anew, and theſe dogs muſt have extreme vigour to be able to ſupport them. Meanwhile they are not remarkably large, and reſemble pretty exactly our mountain dogs, or ſuch as are commonly uſed by ſhepherds. There is not an individual inhabitant, Ruſſian or native, that has leſs than five. They make uſe of them when they travel, when they go to the foreſts to cut wood, and for the conveyance

231 veyance of their effects and proviſions, as
492 well as their perſons. In ſhort, theſe dogs conduct travellers from place to place, and horſes could not in reality be more ſerviceable. They are harneſſed to a ſledge two and two together*, with a ſingle one before as a leader. This honour is beſtowed on the moſt intelligent, or the beſt trained dog, and he underſtands wonderfully the terms uſed by the conductor to direct his courſe. The cry of *tagtag*, *tagtag*, turns him to the right, and *kougba*, *kougba*, to the left; the intelligent animal underſtands it

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* They are caſtrated like horſes, but the mode of performing the operation is different. The Kamtſchadales do not extirpate the teſticles, but bruiſe them, and the inſtrument they make uſe of is their teeth. Some of them do not ſurvive, and others are crippled and unfit for ſervice. In the mean time it is imagined that equal advantage could not be derived from theſe animals, if they were permitted to remain in their natural ſtate; it would not be practicable to harneſs them with females. All the males, however, are not mutilated; a ſufficient number is reſerved for the preſervation of the ſpecies, and theſe are frequently uſed for hunting.

231 immediately, and gives to the reſt the ex-
492 ample of obedience: *ah*, *ah*, ſtops them, and
493 *ha* makes them ſet off. The number of dogs that it is neceſſary to harneſs, depends upon the load; when it is little more than the weight of the perſon who mounts the ſledge, it is conſidered as a common ſledge, or *ſaunka**, and the team conſiſts of four or five dogs. The harneſs † is made of leather. It paſſes under the neck, that is, upon the breaſt of theſe ſteeds, and is joined to the ſledge by a ſtrap three feet long, in the manner of a trace: the dogs are alſo faſtened together by couples paſſed through their collars; theſe collars are frequently covered with bear's ſkin, by way of ornament.

493 The form of the ſledge is like that of an

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* The ſledges for baggage are called *narta*, and are drawn by ten dogs.

† Called *alaki*.

oblong

493 oblong baſket, the two extremities of which are elevated in a curve. Its length is about three feet, and its breadth ſcarcely exceeds a foot. This kind of baſket, which compoſes the body of the ſledge, is of very thin wood; the ſides are of open work, and ornamented with ſtraps of different colours. The ſeat of the charioteer is covered with bear's ſkin, and elevated three feet from the ground, upon four legs, which diverge towards the lower extremity, and are faſtened to two parallel planks, three or four inches broad. Theſe planks are not thick, but ſo long as to extend beyond the body of the ſledge, to which they ſerve as ſupports and as ſkates. For this purpoſe they are furniſhed underneath, in time of thaw, with three or four long pieces of whale-bone, all of them of the ſame breadth, and faſtened to the ſkates with leathern thongs. In front theſe planks bend upward, and ſo meet the poles of the ſledge, which gradually lower

493 for that purpoſe, and are adapted to receive a part of the baggage. The front of the ſledge is farther adorned with floating reins or ſhreds of leather, which are of no uſe.
492 The charioteer has nothing in his hand but a curved ſtick, which ſerves him both for rudder and whip. Iron rings are ſuſpended at one end of the ſtick, as much for ornament, as to encourage the dogs by the noiſe which theſe kind of bells make, and which are frequently jingled for that purpoſe; the other end is ſometimes pointed with iron, to make an eaſier impreſſion on the ice, and ſerves at the ſame time to guide the ardour of theſe animals. Dogs, that are well trained, have no need to hear the voice of the conductor; if he ſtrike the ice with his ſtick, they will go to the left; if he ſtrike the legs of the ſledge, they will go to the right; and when he wiſhes them to ſtop, he has only to place the ſtick between the ſnow and the front of the ſledge. When they

When
493 they ſlacken their pace, and become careleſs and inattentive to the ſignals, or to his voice, he throws his ſtick at them*; but then the utmoſt addreſs is neceſſary to regain it, as he proceeds rapidly along; and this is one of the ſtrongeſt teſts of the ſkill of the conductor. The Kamtſchadales are ſingularly expert in this exerciſe. I was in general aſtoniſhed at the dexterity they diſplayed in
000 driving their ſledges, and as I was ſoon to have the happineſs of travelling in this vehicle, I conceived that I ought to practice, not ſo much to reconcile myſelf to it, as to learn to be my own guide. It was in vain they repreſented to me the riſks I ſhould run, by expoſing myſelf alone in a ſledge, before I had acquired ſufficient ſkill to know how to conduct it; at my age we are all confident, and I liſtened not to their cautions. The lightneſs of my carriage, which ſcarcely exceeded ten pounds, its elevation,

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* This ſtick is called *oſchtol*.

which

000 which rendered it more liable to be overturned, the difficulty of preſerving the equilibrium, and, in ſhort, the conſequences that might attend a fall, if I loſt my hold of the ſledge*; all theſe conſiderations, which were expoſed to my view, could neither intimidate nor diſſuade me from ſo dangerous an apprenticeſhip. I mounted one day my new car, conſenting however to be followed, and a multitude of ſledges attended me. It was not long before the company ſaw their predictions realized; I had advanced a very little way, when I exhibited a complete fall. Scarcely remounted, I repeated the ſcene, and occaſioned a new burſt of laughter: in ſpite of this, I did not loſe my courage, but quickly recovered myſelf to be overturned again as quickly. I had ſufficient reaſon to be inured to theſe acci-

dents,

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* The dogs feeling their burthen become lighter, advance with ſuch ſpeed as frequently not to ſtop till they have exhauſted themſelves with fatigue, or daſhed the ſledge to pieces againſt the trees.

000 dents, for in every attempt I paid the tri-
bute of inexperience. Seven times did I fall
in taking my firſt leſſon, but without re-
ceiving any injury; and I only returned
with more eagerneſs to take a ſecond, then a
third, then a fourth; in ſhort, a day ſcarce-
ly paſſed, without my making ſome pro-
greſs. The number of my falls diminiſhed,
in proportion as I acquired more knowledge
and ſkill, and my ſucceſs rendered me ſuch
an amateur of this exerciſe, that in a ſhort
time I acquired a degree of reputation; it
coſt me, however, conſiderable pains to ha-
bituate myſelf to the obſervance of the ne-
492 ceſſary equilibrium. The body is, as it
were, in continual motion. Here we muſt
lean to the right, becauſe the ſledge inclines
to the left; there we muſt ſuddenly change
to the left, becauſe it leans to the right:
the next minute, perhaps our poſture muſt
be erect; and if we fail in quickneſs or at-
tention, it is ſeldom that an immediate over-
throw

492 throw is not the conſequence. In falling, it is ſtill neceſſary not to quit the vehicle, but to hold it as firm as poſſible, in order to create a ſufficient weight to impede the dogs, who, as I have already ſaid, will otherwiſe advance full ſpeed. The common mode of ſitting in a ſledge is ſide ways, as a lady rides on horſeback; we may alſo ſit aſtride; but the point of main difficulty, the *ne plus ultra* of addreſs and of grace, is to be able to ſtand upon one leg: it is excellent to ſee an adept in this ſtriking attitude.

For myſelf, I was no ſooner able to drive, than I abandoned every other mode of conveyance. Always accompanied, becauſe of the roads, I ſometimes took a ride, and
132 ſometimes went a hunting. The tracks of hares and partridges were perceptible on the ſnow*, and to ſuch a degree, that it ap-
peared

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* The ſnow began to fall 5 November, and ſo heavily, that the country was covered almoſt immediately. But the
froſt

481 peared full of holes like a ſieve. The ſnow was frequently ſo deep in the woods, that it was impoſſible to proceed a ſtep without ſinking in; our reſource in that caſe was to quit our ſledges, which were no longer ſerviceable to us, and turn them upon their ſide. Having taking this precaution, which was ſufficient to retain our dogs, who immediately laid themſelves down in a circular form upon the ſnow, and patiently waited the return of their guides; we faſtened to the ſoles of our feet, with leathern thongs, rackets, made of thin board*, ſix or eight inches wide and four feet long, the front of which turned up like ſkates, and the bot-

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132 froſt being later, and guſts of wind continuing almoſt without ceſſation, the ſledges could not conveniently be uſed till a conſiderable time after, as will be ſeen in the ſequel.

* Theſe rackets are called *ligi*. In the northern part of the peninſula they uſe another ſort of racket, called *lapki*, which are ſhorter, and made of leathern thorns twiſted, like the ſtrings of a tennis racket; two ſmall ſharp pointed bones are fixed in the bottom, which penetrate the ice, and are a preſervative againſt ſliding.

481 tom was covered with the ſkin of the ſea wolf
or rein deer. Furniſhed with theſe kind of
000 ſhoes, we continued our chace; I had at
firſt ſome difficulty to accuſtom myſelf to
them, and I fell more than once both upon
my back and my face; but the pleaſure of
a good chace made me ſoon forget theſe accidents.
Though it was difficult to perceive
the hares and partridges, whoſe whiteneſs
equalled that of the ſnow, I did not
fail, after a little practice, and ſome inſtructions
from my companions, to bring home
a tolerable number.

This was one of my moſt agreeable diverſions while at Bolcheretſk; the reſt of my hours were occupied in expreſſing my impatience and uneaſineſs, on account of the length of time I was obliged to ſtay there. To give a different turn to my thoughts, I embraced the few fine days that we experienced, to viſit ſome of the environs, which

000 which I had a ſecond opportunity of viewing upon my departure, and which I ſhall mention when I proceed on my travels. The conſtruction of my travelling ſledges* engaged alſo my attention; but my chief conſolation was the company of M. Kaſloff and the officers of his ſuite. Their converſations, and the enquiries which I made, enabled me almoſt every day to take notes, a part of which I have already tranſcribed, and ſhall now proceed with the reſt.

The diſeaſes that prevail in Kamtſchatka is the firſt article that preſents itſelf. Diſagreeable as may be the details they require, I conceive that I ought not to ſuppreſs them; they form a part of my obſervations, and ſhould have a place in my journals.

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* A kind of cloſe coach to ſleep in, and which is fitted to the ſledge. It is like a carriage very common in Ruſſia, called *vezok*; mine was lined with bear's ſkin, and covered with the ſkin of the ſea wolf.

164 The ſmall pox, whoſe ravages I have al-
278 ready mentioned, appears not to be natural
757 to the country, nor is it very common. Since the invaſion of the Ruſſians, and the frequent emigrations that ſucceeded it, this epidemical diſeaſe has only made its appearance in 1767 and 1768. It was then brought into the country by a Ruſſian veſſel bound to the Eaſtern iſlands, for the purpoſe of hunting otters, foxes, and other animals. The perſon, who had in his blood the fatal germ, was a ſailor from Okotſk, where he had taken remedies for the diſorder, previous to his departure; but the recent marks of it were viſible. Scarcely landed, he communicated this cruel malady to the poor Kamtſchadales, which carried off three fourths of them. As it has not appeared ſince, it is ſuppoſed that theſe people are not ſubject to it. In the year 1780 it broke out in the northern part of Kamtſchatka, but it did not ſpread ſo far as the peninſula.

164 278 757 peninſula. It began at Anadirſkoi; it is not known how it was brought there, though the Ruſſians are alſo accuſed in this inſtance.

There is reaſon to ſuſpect that the Kamtſchadales are indebted to them in like manner for their knowledge of the venereal diſeaſe, which happily is not common. This peſtilence appears to be exotic, and its cure is as difficult as it is rare. They have recourſe to various roots and to corroſive ſublimate, which is attended in this country with its uſual ruinous effects, and the more ſo, as being indiſcreetly adminiſtered.

732 The Kamtſchadales have no deformed births. Such as are deformed among them, have become ſo in conſequence of a conſiderable fall, though this is not a very common occurrence, as they are accuſtomed to fall from their balagans. They are but

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They are but
164 757 little ſubject to the ſcurvy; their uſe of wild garlic, and various fruits and berries, is a preſervative. The Ruſſians and other ſettlers are more frequently afflicted with this diſeaſe.

Conſumptions are frequent enough; but boils, tumors, abſceſſes, and wens, are very common. They have no mode of curing them, but by inciſion or extirpation; and they uſe for theſe operations a knife, or perhaps ſimply a ſharp ſtone, which ſupplies the place of a lancet. Such inſtruments are calculated to impreſs us with no very high opinion of the ſkill of the operators; and it is obvious that the art of ſurgery, brought to ſuch perfection with us, is in a ſtate of the utmoſt barbariſm at Kamtſchatka.

178 756 Phyſic does not appear to have made a greater progreſs; though it muſt be confeſſed

178 feſſed that theſe people have gained ſome-
756 thing by learning to diſtruſt their impoſtors and abſurd empiricks. Formerly, ſelf-created magicians, called *chamans*, taking advantage of the credulity of the Kamtſchadales, turned doctors of phyſic, and thus ſecured to themſelves a double claim to their veneration and confidence*. Their ſtrange dreſs contributed to the impoſition, and ſuited perfectly their extravagant mummeries. What was told me upon the ſubject would exceed the utmoſt ſtretch of faith, if we had never heard of the Bohemians and other ſorcerers of this kind. It is not poſſible to form an idea of the buffooneries of theſe ſuppoſitious phyſicians, and the impertinencies they relate, to make their preſcriptions or pretended revelations go down. It is probable that their cures

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[*] In an oſtrog at ſome diſtance from Bolcheretſk, I had afterwards an opportunity of conſidering this ſubject more fully, and my obſervations will be found in their proper place.

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756 were frequently attended with fatal conſequences, and that the number of victims equalled that of their patients. Tired at laſt of being duped at the expence of their lives, the Kamtſchadales began to be diſſatisfied with theſe impoſtors, who gradually loſt their credit, and ſunk into contempt and oblivion. Such has been the fate alſo of the chamans. The feeble light which the Ruſſian commerce diffuſed through the country, proved ſufficient to open the eyes of the inhabitants. They perceived at once the abſurdity of the magic art of their doctors. As it ceaſed to be reſpected, it was no longer lucrative, and the number of magicians diminiſhed of courſe. Diſguſted with the trade, the men abandoned it; and it has ſince been taken up by ſome old women, who, poſſeſſing leſs ſkill, have doubtleſs fewer cuſtomers*.

The

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* The revolution which took place in Kamtſchatka reſpecting the chamans, is the preciſe hiſtory of all our mountebanks.

163 165 844 The women of this country have ſeldom more than ten children, the common eſtimate is four or five, they bear none after the age of forty. They aſſiſt one another in their deliveries, which are effected with great facility: meanwhile there are midwives in Kamtſchatka, but their number is very ſmall. The accidents which prove fatal to ſo many mothers, are much leſs frequent to theſe women, than inſtances of child-birth in the open air, in roads, or wherever their occupations call them. On

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mountebanks. Similar in their impoſtures, their reign and their fall are ſimilar. Various reflections might be made on this ſubject. That a people equally ſimple and uninformed, like the Kamtſchadales, ſhould for a time have been the dupes of the impoſtures of their magicians, is not aſtoniſhing, and will admit of an excuſe: but that ſuch extreme ignorance and credulity ſhould be made ſenſible of their error, and bluſh at it, is a matter of ſurpriſe and congratulation; for even with the moſt enlightened nations of Europe, do not ſome kinds of chamans ſpring up every day, equally perfidious and deſtructive! They have all in the mean time their apoſtles, their proſelytes, and a prodigious number of martyrs.

844 theſe occaſions they make uſe of their hair,
862 I am told, to tie the umbilical cord, carry home their children themſelves, and immediately give them ſuck. They have no limited time for ſuckling their children, and I have ſeen inſtances of its continuing for four or five years. We may judge from this circumſtance of the ſtrong conſtitution of theſe women. It is obſerved, however, that Kamtſchadales of either ſex, do not live longer than Ruſſians.

278 I forgot to mention a remedy to which
825 the inhabitants of this peninſula have voluntary recourſe in almoſt every diſeaſe: it is to a root called *bears root*, which they ſteep in brandy. The name ſufficiently indicates to whom they are indebted for its knowledge. Perceiving that the bear was fond of eating this herb, and of rolling himſelf upon it when wounded, they imagined it to poſſeſs ſome healing quality, and

this

278 this induced them to make uſe of it. This
825 animal thus gave them their firſt leſſon in
botany and pharmacy. It is ſaid however,
that the bear cures all his wounds with
this root. If this be true, it is natural to
ſuppoſe that human beings would find it
very ſerviceable: but as I have never had
occaſion to make the experiment, I can only
ſpeak from report.

177 The Chriſtian religion was introduced
771 into this country by the Ruſſians; but the
793 inhabitants appear to know little more of
it than the ceremony of baptiſm. They
are ignorant of the very firſt principles of
Chriſtianity. Slaves to their inclinations,
they follow their impulſe whether good or
bad. If they think of religion, it is merely
from a motive of convenience or intereſt, or
when particular circumſtances compel them
to it. This proves how very defective their
inſtruction is, and reflects in my opinion

177 upon the clergy, whoſe buſineſs it is to en-
771 lighten their ignorance. But are theſe cle-
793 rical miſſionaries ſufficiently informed themſelves? They have no opportunity it muſt be acknowledged for profound ſtudy, and probably it is not required of them, as it is common enough to ſee a Kamtſchadale admitted to this dignified office.

177 Theſe popes are all under the authority
793 of a protapope, or high prieſt, reſident at Nijenei, and he again is ſubordinate to the archbiſhop of Irkoutſk, who alone ordains and appoints the clergy to their cures, ſo that they are all obliged to reſort to this ſettlement. The length and perils of the journey are conſidered perhaps as a kind of initiation; and without any other merit or examination, they probably receive holy orders: it is certain they return neither wiſer nor better. Theſe divines are then ſent to their places of deſtination; the

time

793 time they continue is not limited, and de-
177 pends on the will of their chieſs.

794 There are eight principal churches in Kamtſchatka: Paratounka, Bolcheretſk, Jchinſk, Tiguil, Vercknei, Klutcheſskaïa, and two at Nijenei; to theſe may be added the church of Ingiga, in the country of the Koriacs.

The diſtrict or pariſh of Paratounka includes ſeven oſtrogs and the Kurilles iſlands; viz. the oſtrog of the ſame name, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Koriaki, Natchikin, Apatchin, Malkin, and Bolcheretſk. The number of pariſhioners contained in theſe oſtrogs, does not exceed four hundred; and including the Kurilles iſlands, the general calculation is not more than ſix hun-
793 dred and twenty Chriſtians. The rector of Paratounka is allowed by the empreſs a

ſalary

793 ſalary of eighty roubles, and twenty *pouds** of rye flour. His pariſhioners of conſequence, pay no tythes; but he receives alms and other caſual emoluments attached to his church. For a marriage, a chriſtening, or a burial, theſe prieſts demand whatever they pleaſe. There is no regulation in this reſpect, and every thing is governed ſolely by their caprice, which occaſions conſiderable impoſitions and abuſes. In general however, they endeavour to proportion their demands to the abilities of their pariſhioners, a diſcretion that is entitled to applauſe.

651 R 177 .65 The Kamtſchadales are free. They are ſubject only to an annual tribute to Ruſſia, which conſiſts, as I have already ſaid, in various kinds of furs; ſo that the produce of their chace, turns almoſt entirely to the

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* A Ruſſian weight equal to about thirty-three pounds.

advantage

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R
177
.65

advantage of the empreſs. Every chief of a family is obliged to furniſh for himſelf and for each of his children, even ſuch as are in their minority, a certain quantity of ſkins equivalent to his ſhare of taxation: this may amount to ſeven roubles more or leſs, and the ſkins, I am told, are generally valued at the loweſt poſſible price. This mode of paying tribute muſt produce a conſiderable revenue to the crown, if we merely judge from the number of ſables the province annually ſupplies, which is ſomething more than four thouſand. The toyon of each oſtrog collects the taxes, and remits them to the treaſurer of the crown; a receipt is previouſly given to every individual of the amount of his tribute, and each Kamtſchadale takes care to mark with his ſeal, or ſome other ſign, all the furs that he delivers.

The current coins are the golden imperial

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

436 of ten roubles; the rouble, and half rouble.
R. There are very few ſilver coins below this
177.43 value; a proof that no article of merchandize is expected to produce leſs than half a rouble. Copper and paper money have not yet reached this peninſula. A variety of old ſilver coins of the times of Peter I. Catherine I. and Elizabeth, abound here. A conſiderable branch of commerce may be made of them; the ſilver is purer and more valuable than that of common coins.

465 The pay of the ſoldiers or Coſſacs is
R. fifteen roubles a year. The officers ſent by
177.46 government to ſo diſtant a country, receive double ſalaries.

631 The peninſula of Kamtſchatka, when
R. major Behm preſided at Bolcheretſk, was
177.63 under the juriſdiction of the government general of Irkoutſk. Upon the departure of this governor, whom the Engliſh ſaw upon

631 R 177.63 upon their firſt arrival in 1779, captain Schmaleff was deputed in his room, and enjoyed for a year the power and ſatisfaction of doing good to the inhabitants, who entertain for him an equal reſpect and gratitude. M. Renikin ſupplied his place in 1780, and was recalled in 1784 for reaſons which I am obliged to ſuppreſs. At this period the Kamtſchatka department was reunited to that of Okotſk. The chiefs and officers of the different oſtrogs have ſince been ſubject to the orders of the governor at Okotſk, and to the deciſions of its courts of juſtice; theſe are themſelves ſubordinate and accountable to the governor general reſiding at Irkoutſk. The preſent commanding officer, or governor, at Bolcheretſk, which was formerly the capital of Kamtſchatka, is now merely a ſergeant; the name of the perſon I left there was *Raſtargowieff*, and he had been nominated to the office by M. Kaſloff.

622 The governors in theſe various oſtrogs
631 are not accountable to one another for their
R. adminiſtration, not even inferior officers to
177.63 their ſuperiors; the authority of each is limited to the inhabitants of his own diſtrict; which has doubtleſs induced the empreſs to appoint an inſpector general, *capitan iſpravnick*, whoſe buſineſs is to vſiit every year all the Kamtſchadale villages, receive their complaints, examine their differences, judge them, and puniſh ſuch as are guilty; in ſhort to maintain order and peace among them. It is alſo a duty of his function to encourage commerce, particularly their fiſhing and hunting, to inſpect the regular payment of their tribute, the ſtock of proviſions of each individual for his own ſupport, and that of his family, the repairs of the bridges and roads, which unfortunately are very few, and kept in very bad order. In a word, the inſpector general ſhould conſider it as incumbent upon him to introduce among

622 631 R 177 .63 among theſe people the manners and cuſtoms of Ruſſia. This important office was confided, in 1784, to baron de Steinheil, who fixed his reſidence at Nijenei. Affairs calling him elſewhere, he was ſucceeded by M. Schmaleff, who, in accompanying us, was making the tour of his office.

692 R 177 .69 The government is not purely military; there are ſome tribunals eſtabliſhed for hearing and deciding cauſes and other matters juridically. Such are the tribunals of Tiguil, Ingiga, and Nijenei-Kamtſchatka; they are ſubject to the juriſdiction of the court of Okotſk, in the ſame manner as in Ruſſia the magiſtrates of the ſubordinate towns hold from thoſe of the capital, in whom the final deciſion reſts. There is beſide at Bolcheretſk a kind of conſular juriſdiction, or vocal tribunal, called in Ruſſia *Sloveſnoi-ſoud*. The judges are merchants; they take cognizance of all diſputes relating to commerce,

692 671 428 R 177 .67 merce, and their decifions are either confirmed or annulled by the court to which they are carried by appeal. The Ruſſian code of laws is the only one that is attended to; it is too well known to require that I ſhould enter into particulars; and I could only repeat what has been already related by various hiſtorians and travellers better informed upon the ſubject than myſelf.

I ought however to add, that the property of the Kamtſchadales devolves, of courſe, upon their deceaſe, to the next heir, or to whomſoever it is bequeathed. The will of the teſtator is equally reſpected, and as literally adhered to, as it could be with thoſe nations of Europe who are moſt ſcrupulous on the ſubject of ſucceſſions.

586 R 177 .58 Divorces are neither practiſed or allowed among the Kamtſchadales. The Ruſſians ſeem to court their alliance, though it procures

586 cures them no particular priviledge. Their
R motive is obvious. By frequent marriages,
177 it is poſſible that before the end of the pre-
.58 ſent generation, the race of the indigenes
may be totally extinct.

681 The penalty of death, aboliſhed in all the
R dominions of the empreſs, is never inflicted
177 in Kamtſchatka. In their earlieſt migrati-
.68 ons, the Ruſſians, when accuſed of haraſſing
the natives, were condemned to the knowt; the Kamtſchadales alſo, for various offences, were liable to this cruel puniſhment; but it is no longer practiced. When the natives are guilty either of petty or capital offences, the puniſhment is whipping. It may be queſtioned whether they have gained by the change. The preſent mode of puniſhing them being more ſimple and expeditious, it is reſorted to with leſs ſcruple, and is liable to frequent abuſe.

197 The Kamtſchadale idiom appeared to me to be uncouth, guttural, and difficult to be pronounced; the words are broken, and the ſounds diſagreeable. There are as many different dialects and accents as there are oſtrogs. For inſtance, upon leaving Saint Peter and Saint Paul, we are aſtoniſhed to hear a different jargon at Paratounka: this is the caſe with villages the neareſt to one another. Notwithſtanding theſe variations of idiom, I conſidered it as incumbent upon me to procure a vocabulary, which will be found at the end of my journal. I ſhall add to it the Koriac, the Tchouktchi, and the Lamout languages. My attention to the ſubject was unremitted, and I received very conſiderable aſſiſtance. I ſhall finiſh the article of my abode at Bolcheretſk, with ſome obſervations that will tend to prove the impoſſibility of my leaving it ſooner.

Towards the end of November the cold

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

Towards the end of November the cold
132 became on a ſudden ſo ſevere, that in a few
166 days the rivers were all frozen, even the Bol-
226 chaïa-reka, which ſeldom happens, becauſe of the extreme rapidity of its current. The next day it got rid of the ice that covered it, and from that time I ſaw no more ſtop before Bolcheretſk, lower than the houſe of the governor. Though frozen in various places, it preſents a great number chaſms, where the water is ſeen to flow as uſual.

On each ſhore of the peninſula, there is a ſenſible difference in the atmoſphere. During the fine weather, a drought prevailed at Saint Peter and Saint Paul's, whereas at Bolcheretſk they complained of frequent ſhowers; meanwhile autumn had not proved this year more rainy than common. Very heavy rains are injurious in this country, becauſe they occaſion floods, which drive the fiſh from the rivers; a famine moſt diſtreſſing to the poor Kamt-

132 ſchadales is the reſult, as it happened laſt
166 year in all the villages along the weſtern
226 coaſt of the peninſula. This dreadful calamity
occurs ſo frequently in this quarter,
that the inhabitants are obliged to abandon
their dwellings, and repair with their
families to the borders of the Kamtſchatka,
where they hope to find better reſources,
000 fiſh being more plentiful in this river. M.
Kaſloff had intended to proceed along the
weſtern coaſt, having already made his viſit
through the eaſt; but the news of this famine
determined him, contrary to his wiſhes,
to return, rather than be driven to the neceſſity
of ſtopping half way, or periſhing
with hunger from the difficulty of procuring
dogs and proviſion.

132 The wind varied conſiderably during my reſidence at Bolcheretſk; it was moſt commonly weſt, north-weſt, or north-eaſt; it blew ſometimes from the ſouth, but ſeldom

132 from the eaſt. The ſouth and weſt winds are almoſt invariably attended with ſnow. Scarcely a week paſſed, even to the month of January, without our experiencing two or three violent tempeſts; they commonly proceeded from the north-weſt. Theſe gales of wind laſted always a day or two, and ſometimes ſeven or eight days. It would have been the height of imprudence to venture out at ſuch a ſeaſon. The ſky was completely obſcured, and the ſnow, ſupported by theſe whirlwinds, formed in the air a thick fog, that prevented us from ſeeing at the diſtance of ſix yards. Woe to all travellers who are expoſed to this terrible weather! neceſſity compels them to ſtop, or they run the riſk of loſing themſelves, or of falling every moment into ſome abyſs; for how is it poſſible they ſhould find their way, or advance a ſtep, when they have to reſiſt the impetuoſity of the wind, and to diſengage themſelves from the heaps of ſnow

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

that ſuddenly encompaſs them? If ſuch be the dangers encountered by the men, what muſt we ſuppoſe the poor dogs to ſuffer. Nothing is more common, when overtaken by theſe hurricanes, than to find ourſelves ſeparated from the ſledges of our companions, to the diſtance of two werſts or upwards from each other, and proceeding in an oppoſite direction*.

000 The frequency of theſe tempeſts, and the deplorable accidents they occaſion, convinced us of the neceſſity of deferring our departure. M. Kaſloff was equally as impatient to arrive at the place of his deſtination, as I was to continue my journey, that I might execute my commiſſion with the diligence that had been recommended to me; but every one whoſe advice we aſked, condemned our eagerneſs, and proved par-

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[*] Theſe hurricanes prevail chiefly in the months of November, December, and January.

000 Kaſloff to Apatchin*, where we arrived about midnight: the diſtance of Bolcheretſk from this oſtrog is forty-four werſts.

A few moments after our arrival a tempeſtuous wind aroſe, which would greatly have incommoded us, if it had happened during our route. It continued the reſt of the night and all the next day, which we were obliged therefore to ſpend at Apatchin.

Here we received the laſt adieux of the inhabitants of Bolcheretſk. I was ſtruck with their gratitude and attachment to M. Kaſloff, and the regret they expreſſed at leaving him, as well as their concern for me, and the intereſt they took in the ſucceſs of
609 my journey. I was the more pleaſed with their attentions, as I had obſerved while at Bolcheretſk, that the French nation was not

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* I had paſſed through this village on my road to Bolcheretſk, and have deſcribed it, page 65.

held

609 held in any high eſteem by them; they had even ſo bad an opinion of us, that it was with difficulty they were brought to believe what had been told them of the politeneſs and cordiality of the crews of the French frigates to the inhabitants of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. In proportion howevr as they heard their countrymen extol our conduct, their prejudice grew weaker. I endeavoured by my converſation and behaviour to deſtroy it entirely. I dare not flatter myſelf to have ſucceeded; but it appeared to me that a complete change at laſt took place in their ſentiments reſpecting us.

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114 The diſadvantageous impreſſion which they had imbibed of the character and genius of our nation, originated in the perfidy and cruelty exhibited in the perſon of the famous Beniowſky in this part of the peninſula. This ſlave called himſelf a Frenchman, and acted like a true Vandal.

His

114 175 His hiſtory is known. During the troubles of 1769 he ſerved in Poland under the colours of the confederates. His intrepidity induced them to make choice of him to command a medley troop of foreigners, or rather robbers, like himſelf, whom they kept in pay, not from choice but neceſſity. With Beniowſky at their head, they ranſacked the country, maſſacring every one they met. He haraſſed the Ruſſians, to whom he was as formidable as to his own countrymen. They ſoon felt the neceſſity of getting rid of ſo dangerous an enemy: he was taken priſoner, and it may be ſuppoſed they adopted no very lenient meaſures reſpecting him. Baniſhed to Siberia, and afterwards to Kamtſchatka, his fiery and vindictive genius accompanied him. Eſcaped from the mountains of ſnow, under which the Ruſſians ſuppoſed him to be buried, he ſuddenly made his appearance at Bolcheretſk with a troop of exiles, to whom he had imparted a ſpark

of

114
175 of his own audacity. He ſurpriſed the garriſon and took poſſeſſion of the arms; the governor, M. Nilloff, was killed by his hand. There was a veſſel in the port; he ſeized it: every one trembled at his aſpect; all ſubmitted to his will. He compelled the poor Kamtſchadales to furniſh him with the proviſions he demanded; and not content with the ſacrifices obtained, he gave up their habitations to the unbridled licentiouſneſs of his banditti, to whom he ſet the example of villainy and ferocity. He embarked at length with his companions, and ſailed, it was ſaid, towards China, carrying with him the execrations of the people of Kamtſchatka. This ſuppoſitious Frenchman was the only one they had yet ſeen in the peninſula; and from ſuch a ſpecimen of our nation, they certainly could not love, and had ſufficient reaſon to fear us.

000 M. Schmaleff quitted us at break of day,

000 After a few bad nights, ſleep at laſt overpowered me, and I was inſenſible to all noiſe. By degrees I became ſo inured to the cries of theſe animals, that I could repoſe in the midſt of them in perfect tranquillity. 231 I ſhall mention in this place, that the dogs are only fed once a day, at the end of their journey; their repaſt conſiſts commonly of a dried ſalmon diſtributed to each of them.

133 361 The oſtrog of Malkin is ſimilar to thoſe which I have already deſcribed. It contains five or ſix iſbas and a dozen balagans, is ſituated upon the border of the Biſtraïa, and ſurrounded with high mountains. I had no time to viſit the hot ſprings that are ſaid to be in this neighbourhood, the waters of which are ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur; and one in particular, iſſuing from the declivity of a hill, forms at the bottom a baſon of tolerably clear water.

361 From Malkin we went to Ganal, which is forty-five werſts, but we were unable to travel with the ſpeed we had expected. The Biſtraïa was not completely frozen, and we were obliged to wind about and to croſs woods, where the ſnow, though deep, was ſo far from firm, that our dogs ſunk to their bellies, and were extremely fatigued. This induced us to abandon this road, and make again for the Biſtraïa. We came up to it at ten werſts from Ganal, and found it in the ſtate we had wiſhed. The ſolidity of the ice promiſed us expeditious travelling, and we readily embraced the advantage. We followed this river till we came to the oſtrog which is upon its bank, and conſiſts of four iſbas and twelve balagans. It offered nothing remarkable.

132 We only learned that there had been ſome very terrible hurricanes, and that they had not yet ſubſided, though their force was

con-

132 conſiderably diminiſhed. There is no difficulty in accounting for the violence of theſe tempeſts. The ſurrounding high mountains form ſo many receſſes in which the wind is embayed. The fewer avenues it has to eſcape at, the more impetuous it becomes: it ſeeks out a paſſage, ruſhes through the firſt that offers, breaks out in whirlwinds, ſcatters the ſnow over the roads, and generally renders them impaſſable.

000 Having ſpent a very indifferent night in the houſe of the toyon of Ganal, we ſet off the next day for Pouſchiné. The diſtance is ninety werſts, which however we performed in fourteen hours; but the laſt half of the journey was very painful. No road being opened, our ſledges ſunk three or four feet in the ſnow, and the jolts were ſo frequent, that I was happy to eſcape with being only once overturned. We judged from the ſnow upon the trees, that it muſt

000 have proceeded from the north, and been very heavy, which was confirmed by the inhabitants. Our road lay invariably through a foreſt of birch trees, and for ſome time we loſt ſight of the mountains, by which we had paſſed the preceding evening; but as we drew nearer to Pouſchiné they became viſible again.

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342 The Kamtſchatka runs by the lower end of this oſtrog, which is larger than that of Ganal. The only thing I remarked in this place was, that the iſbas had no chimneys; they have only, like the balagans, a narrow opening in the roof to let out the ſmoak, which is frequently cloſed up by a trap door to confine the heat. It is not poſſible to continue in apartments warmed in this manner; we muſt either come out, or proſtrate ourſelves on the floor, if we would eſcape being ſtifled, or at leaſt blinded, by the ſmoke: it does not aſcend directly towards

354 wards the roof, but ſpreads a thick black
342 cloud over the chamber; and as it ſeldom has time wholly to evaporate, the interior part of theſe iſbas is lined with ſoot, which gives them a diſguſting aſpect and a moſt offenſive ſmell.

354 But it is ſtill leſs unpleaſant than the
356 noiſome odour exhaled from a diſmal lamp, that ſerves as a light to the whole houſe. Its form is not of the moſt elegant kind: it is ſimply a hollow pebble or ſtone, with a rag rolled up in the middle for a wick, round which is placed the greaſe of the ſea wolf, or other animals. As ſoon as the wick is lighted, we are immediately ſurrounded with a dark and thick vapour, which contributes equally with the ſmoke to blacken the whole room: it ſeiſes the noſe and throat, and penetrates to the very heart. This is not the only diſagreeable ſmell that is experienced in theſe habitations; there is

another,

356 another, in my opinion, much more fetid, and which I never could endure; it is the nauſeous exhalation from the dried and ſtinking fiſh, when it is preparing, when they are eating it, and even after it is eaten. The refuſe is deſtined for the dogs; but before the poor animals get it, every corner of the room has been ſwept with it.

511 The perſons who inhabit theſe dwellings exhibit a ſpectacle equally diſguſting. Here is a group of women, ſhining from the fat with which they ſmear themſelves, and wallowing on the ground amidſt a heap of rags; ſome of them ſuckling their children, who are half naked, and bedaubed with filth from head to foot; others devouring with them ſome ſcraps of fiſh perfectly raw, and frequently putrid. There we ſee others in a diſhabille that is not leſs filthy, lying upon bear's ſkins, chattering to one another, and frequently altogether,

and

000 and employed in various domeſtic occupations, in expectation of their huſbands.

Fortunately the houſes of the toyons were cleaned as well as poſſible for the reception of M. Kaſloff, who had always the kindneſs to let me lodge with him.

We ſlept at Pouſchiné in the houſe of the toyon, and departed very early the next morning; we only travelled this day thirty four werſts. It ſeemed that the farther we advanced, the more the roads were obſtructed with the ſnow. My two conductors were continually employed in keeping my ſledge upright, to prevent it from overturning, or going out of the road; they were obliged alſo to exert their lungs to encourage the dogs, who frequently ſtopped, notwithſtanding the blows that were beſtowed upon them with equal profuſion and addreſs. Theſe poor creatures, whoſe ſtrength is inconceivable, 000 had all the difficulty in the world to diſengage themſelves from the ſnow, which covered them as faſt as they ſhook it off. It was frequently neceſſary to ſmooth it before them, to enable them to extricate the ſledge. This alſo was the office of my guides. To ſupport themſelves upon the ſnow, they each faſtened a racket to one of their feet, and in this manner they ſlid along, reſting now and then their other foot upon the ſkate of the ſledge. I doubt whether any exerciſe can be more fatiguing, or require greater ſtrength and ſkill.

The oſtrog of Charom, at which we had the good fortune to arrive, is ſituated upon the Kamtſchatka: it furniſhed me with no remarks. We paſſed part of the night there, and left it before day.

361 In ſeven hours we reached Vercknei-Kamtſchatka, which is thirty-five werſts

361 from Charom. Vercknei is a very conſider-
343 able place, compared with the oſtrogs I had hitherto ſeen. I counted more than a hundred houſes. Its ſituation is commodious, and the proſpect round it tolerably various. Beſides bordering upon the river*, it has the farther advantage of being near to woods and fields, the ſoil of which is good, and begins to be cultivated by the inhabitants. The church is built of wood; its architecture is not diſagreeable, and it is only to be wiſhed that the inſide correſponded with the external appearance. The inhabitants differ in no reſpect from thoſe of the other villages. For the firſt time I ſaw at this place a ſpecies of buildings, about the height of a balagan, that ſerve no other purpoſe than to dry fiſh. A ſerjeant had the command at Vercknei, who lives in a houſe belonging to the crown.

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* The Kamtſchatka, which was not yet frozen.

Thi

000 This village is alſo the place of reſidence of the unfortunate Ivaſchin, whoſe hiſtory I related upon my leaving Saint Peter and Saint Pauls*; he was of our party, and had only quitted us in order to arrive ſooner at Vereknei, where his firſt care had been to kill one of his oxen, which he entreated us to accept for our journey, as a teſtimony of his gratitude. This proceeding juſtified the concern I felt for him, whoſe aſpect alone made me more than once ſhudder at the idea of his misfortunes. I cannot eaſily conceive how he was able to ſupport them, and reconcile himſelf to his fate: it muſt have been the conſciouſneſs of his innocence alone, that could have given him ſuch ſtrength of mind. We paid him a viſit upon our arrival. He was drinking merrily with ſome of his neighbours. His joy was ſincere, and gave us no intimation of a man

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* See page 19.

000 ſenſible of his paſt ſufferings, or weary of his preſent ſituation.

361 563 Our ſtay at Vercknei was ſhort; we ſet out after dinner in order to ſleep at Milkovaïa-Derevna, otherwiſe called the village of Milkoff, which was at the diſtance of fifteen werſts. In our way we paſſed a tolerably large field incloſed with palliſades, and farther on a *zaimka*, that is, a hamlet inhabited by labourers. Theſe labourers were Coſſacs, or Ruſſian ſoldiers, employed in the cultivation of land on government account. They had eighty horſes belonging to the crown, and which equally anſwer the purpoſes of induſtry, and of the ſtud eſtabliſhed in this place for the propagation of animals ſo uſeful and ſo ſcarce in the peninſula. About five hundred yards from this hamlet, which is called Iſchigatchi, upon an arm of the Kamtſchatka, is a water mill built of wood, but not very large. No uſe could at preſent

563 ſent be made of it. The ſwell of water had been ſo great as to overflow the ſluice, and to ſpread itſelf over a part of the plain where it was frozen. The ſoil appeared to be good, and the country round it to be very pleaſant. I queſtioned the Coſſacs upon the productions of their canton, where I conceived every ſpecies of corn might be cultivated with ſucceſs. They told me that their laſt harveſt had, both in quantity and quality, ſurpaſſed their hopes, and was not inferior to the fineſt harveſts in Ruſſia; two pouds of corn had produced ten.

563 Arrived at Milkoff, I was aſtoniſhed no
361 longer to ſee either Kamtſchadales or Coſ-
241 ſacs, but an intereſting colony of peaſants
R
177 whoſe features and addreſs told me they
.24 were not a mixed breed. This colony was
ſelected in 1743, partly in Ruſſia and partly
in Siberia, among the primitive inhabitants,
that is, among the huſbandmen. The view
of

563 of adminiſtration, in ſending them into this
241 country was, that they might clear the
361 land and make experiments in agriculture;
R hoping that their example and ſucceſs would
177 inſtruct and encourage the indigenes, and
.24 induce them to employ their labours in this advantageous and neceſſary art. Unfortunately their extreme indolence, which I have already deſcribed, little correſponded with the wiſe intentions of government; and ſo far are they from pretending to any rivalſhip, that they have never derived the ſmalleſt advantage from the examples that are before their eyes. This extreme ſluggiſhneſs of the natives is the more painful to an obſerver, as he cannot but admire the induſtry of theſe active emigrants, whoſe labours have been attended with ſuch beneficial effects. Their habitations, ſituated upon the Kamtſchatka, ſeem to ſhew that they live at their eaſe. Their cattle thrive well from the great care they take of them. I obſerved

563 I obſerved alſo that theſe peaſants had in
241 general very much the air of being content-
R
177 ed with their ſituation. Their labour is
.24 profitable, and not exceſſive. Every man
plows and ſows his field, and having only his capitation to pay, he reaps abundantly the fruit of his exertions, which a fertile ſoil repays him with uſury. I am convinced that greater advantages might be derived from this ſource, if the cultivators were more numerous. The harveſt conſiſts chiefly of rye, and a very ſmall quantity of barley. This colony has nothing to do with the chace. Government extended its cares ſo far as to prohibit it, that their labours might be wholly devoted to agriculture, and that nothing might divert their attention. The prohibition however, I could perceive, is not very ſcrupulouſly obſerved. Their chief is a *ſtaroſte*, appointed by adminiſtration, and ſelected from the old men of the village, as the name implies. His buſi-

neſs

563 neſs is to inſpect the progreſs of agriculture;
241 to preſide over their ſeed time and
R
177 their harveſt, to fix the preciſe period when
.24 they are to take place; in ſhort, to ſtimulate the negligence, or encourage the zeal of the labourers, and particularly to maintain the ſpirit of the eſtabliſhment and a good underſtanding among them.

000 Being deſirous of going to Machoure, to ſpend a day with the baron de Steinheil, I left M. Kaſloff at Milkoff, and ſet out twenty four hours before him, that I might occaſion no delay in his journey. To travel with the greater expedition I made uſe of a ſmall ſledge. The roads were no better or leſs obſtructed with ſnow than what we had before experienced, and I was therefore unable to make the ſpeed I intended, notwithſtanding my precaution. The firſt
361 village I came to was Kirgan. Before I reached it, I paſſed a number of houſes and

361 balagans that appeared to be deſerted, but I was informed that the ſummer regularly brought back every year their proprietors. The few habitations which compoſe the oſtrog of Kirgan, are built upon the border of a river called Kirganik, which is formed by a variety of ſtreams that iſſue from then eighbouring mountains, and unite above the oſtrog, fifteen werſts from Milkoff.

The cold was ſo ſevere, that notwithſtanding the precaution I took of covering my face with a handkerchief, my cheeks were frozen in leſs than half an hour. I had recourſe to the uſual remedy, that of rubbing my face with ſnow, and was relieved at the expence of an acute pain that continued for ſeveral days. Though my face was thus frozen, the reſt of my body experienced the contrary effect. I conducted my own ſledge; and the continual motion

7:Lesseps I-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

291 motion which this exerciſe requires, added to the weight of my Kamtſchadale dreſs, threw me into a violent perſpiration, and fatigued me extremely.

My dreſs merits a particular deſcription; by which it will be ſeen that it gave me no very alert appearance. Commonly I wore merely a ſimple parque of deers ſkin, and a fur cap, which upon occaſion would cover my ears and part of my cheeks. When the cold was more piercing, I added to my dreſs two *kouklanki*, a kind of parque that was larger and made of thicker ſkin; one of them had the hair on the inſide, and the other on the outſide. In the ſevereſt weather, I put on over all this, another kouklanki, ſtill thicker, made of argali, or dogs ſkin, the hairy ſide of which is always undermoſt, and the leather or external ſurface of the ſkin painted red. To theſe

291 kouklankis a ſmall bib is fixed before, ſo as to guard the face againſt the wind: they have alſo hoods behind, which fall upon the ſhoulders. Sometimes theſe three hoods, one upon another, compoſed my head dreſs, by being drawn over my common cap. My neck was defended by a cravat called ocheinik, made of ſable, or the tail of a fox, and my chin with a chin-cloth made in like manner of ſable, and faſtened upon my head. As the forehead is very ſuſceptible of cold, it was covered with an otter or ſable fillet, and this was covered again by my cap. My fur breeches gave me more warmth than all the reſt of my dreſs, complicated as it was. I had double deer-ſkin ſpatterdaſhes, with hair on both ſides, and which are called in Kamtſchatka *tchigi*. I then put my legs into boots made of deers ſkins, the feet having an interior ſole of *tounchitcha*, a very ſoft graſs, which has the quality of preſerving heat. Notwithſtanding

291 ing theſe precautions, my feet, after travelling two or three hours, were very wet, either from perſpiration or the gradual penetration of the ſnow; and if I ſtood ſtill for a moment in my ſledge, they became immediately frozen. At night I took off theſe ſpatterdaſhes, and put on a large pair of fur ſtockings made of deer or argali ſkin, and called *ounti*.

000 Notwithſtanding my fatigue, I made no ſtop at Kirgan. A few werſts farther on, I perceived a volcano to the north, which emitted no flame, but a column of very thick ſmoke aſcended from it. I ſhall have occaſion to return this way, and will then ſpeak of it more at large. I obſerved near Machoure a wood of firs, tolerably buſhy, and which was the firſt I had ſeen in Kamtſchatka. The trees were ſtrait, but very ſlender. At two o'clock in the afternoon I entered the village of Machoure, which is

000upon the Kamtſchatka, and thirty-ſeven werſts from Kirgan.

I alighted at the baron Stenheil's, formerly *capitan iſpravnick*, or inſpector of Kamtſchatka, an office afterwards conferred on M. Schmaleff. Our acquaintance had commenced at Bolcheretſk. I was delighted to be able to converſe with him in ſeveral languages, particularly that of my own country, though it was not very familiar to him; but it was French, and I conceived him to be my countryman. Whoever has quitted Europe to travel in ſo diſtant a part of the world muſt have had ſimilar feelings. We conſider every man as a fellow-citizen who belongs to the ſame continent, or ſpeaks the ſame language. The moſt trivial circumſtance that reminds us of our country, is productive of a very ſenſible pleaſure; the heart is eagerly drawn towards the friend, the brother, whom we conceive we have

000 found, and feels an inſtant deſire to repoſe in him all its confidence. The ſight of M. Steinheil imparted to me this delicious ſenſation. There was in his converſation, from the very firſt moment, an irreſiſtible attraction. I felt a ſort of craving to ſee him, to talk with him; it had the effect of a charm, though his French, as I have ſaid, was not the moſt pure, and was pronounced with the German accent. I ſpent the day of 4 February with the baron, and in the evening M. Kaſloff arrived as he had previouſly informed me.

161 The oſtrog of Machoure, before the in-
361 troduction of the ſmall-pox, was one of the
756 moſt conſiderable in the peninſula; but the
609 ravages of this cruel diſeaſe, have reduced
797 the number of inhabitants to twenty families.

All the Kamtſchadales of this village,

177 men and women, are chamans, or believers
756 in the witchcraft of theſe pretended ſorcer-
797 ers. They dread to an exceſs the popes or
609 Ruſſian prieſts, for whom they entertain the moſt inveterate hatred. They do all they can to avoid meeting them. This is ſometimes impoſſible, and in that caſe, when they find them at hand they act the hypocrite, and make their eſcape the firſt opportunity that offers. I attribute this fear to the ardent zeal which theſe prieſts have doubtleſs ſhown for the extirpation of idolatry, and which the Kamtſchadales conſider as perſecution. They accordingly look upon them as their greateſt enemies. Perhaps they have reaſon to believe, that in wiſhing to convert them, the overthrow of their idols was not the only thing theſe miſſionaries had in view. Theſe popes probably ſet them no example of the virtues upon which they declaim. It is ſuſpected that their object is the acquiſiton of wealth, rather

797 rather than of proſelytes, and the gratification
177 of their inordinate propenſity to
drunkenneſs. It is not therefore to be wondered
at that the inhabitants retain their
776 ancient errors. They pay a ſecret homage
782 to their god *Koutka*[*], and place in him ſo
224 756 entire a confidence, that they addreſs their
prayers excluſively to him when they are
deſirous of obtaining any boon, or of engaging
in any enterpriſe. When they go
to the chace, they abſtain from waſhing
themſelves, and are careful not to make the
ſign of the croſs: they invoke their Koutka,
and the firſt animal they catch is immediately
ſacrificed to him. After this act
of devotion they conceive that their chace
will be ſucceſsful; on the contrary, if
they were to croſs themſelves, they would
deſpair of catching any thing. It is alſo a
part of their ſuperſtition to conſecrate to

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[*] This object of their worſhip is accurately deſcribed in Steller.

756 Koutka their new-born children, who, the
776 moment they have left their cradle, are deſ-
786 534 tined to become chamans. The veneration
177 of the inhabitants of this village for ſorcecerers can ſcarcely be conceived; it approaches to inſanity, and is really to be pitied; for the extravagant and wild abſurdities by which theſe magicians keep alive the credulity of their compatriots, excites our indignation rather than our laughter. At preſent they do not profeſs their art openly, or give the ſame ſplendour they once did to their necromancy. They no longer decorate their garments with myſtic rings and other ſymbolic figures of metal, that jingled together upon the ſlighteſt motion of their body. In like manner they have abandoned the kind of kettle [*], which they uſed to ſtrike with a ſort of muſical intonation in their pretended en-

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[*] A ſort of *tambour de vaſque* called *bouben*. It is ſtill in uſe amongſt the Yakoutſk, as will be ſeen hereafter.

chantments,

756 786 787 chantments, and with which they announced their approach. In ſhort, they have forſaken all their magic inſtruments. The following are the ceremonies they obſerve in their aſſemblies, which they are careful to hold in ſecret, though not the leſs frequently on that account. Conceive of a circle of ſpectators, ſtupidly rapt in attention and ranged round the magician, male or female, for as I have before obſerved, the women are equally initiated into the myſteries. All at once he begins to ſing, or to utter ſhrill ſounds without either meaſure or ſignification. The docile aſſembly ſtrike in with him, and the concert becomes a medley of harſh and inſupportable diſcords. By degrees the chaman is warmed, and he begins to dance to the confuſed accents of his auditory, who become hoarſe and exhauſted from the violence of their exertions. As the prophetic ſpirit is excited in the miniſter of their Koutka, the animation

756 mation of the dance increaſes. Like the
786 Pythian on the tripos, he rolls his ghaſtly
787 and haggard eyes; all his motions are convulſive; his mouth is drawn awry, his limbs ſtiffened, and every diſtortion and grimace is put in practice by him, to the great admiration of his diſciples. Having acted theſe buffooneries for ſome time, he ſuddenly ſtops, as if inſpired, and becomes now as compoſed as he was before agitated. It is the ſacred collectedneſs of a man full of the god that governs him, and who is about to ſpeak by his voice. Surpriſed and trembling, the aſſembly is inſtantly mute, in expectation of the marvels that are to be revealed. The ſelf-created prophet then utters at different intervals, broken ſentences, words without meaning, and what ever nonſenſe comes into the head of the impoſtor; and this is invariably conſidered as the effect of inſpiration. His jargon is accompanied either with a

torrent

756 786 787 torrent of tears or loud burſts of laughter, according to the complexion of the tidings he has to announce; and the expreſſion and geſture of the orator vary in conformity to his feelings. I was furniſhed with this account by perſons entitled to credit, and who had contrived to be preſent at theſe abſurd revelations.

000 There ſeems to be ſome analogy between theſe chamans, and the ſect called quakers. The quakers pretend equally to inſpiration, and there are individuls among them, who, guided by its ſuppoſed impulſe, hold forth in their ſilent meetings, and break out in piteous lamentations, or ſudden ſtarts of extravagant joy. The difference is this: theſe prompt orators harangue extempore upon the ſubject of morality, whoſe fundamental principles they endeavour to recommend; whereas the Kamtſchadale declaimers underſtand not a word of what they

000 iſſuing from the mountains, and uniting at this place to pay their tribute together to the Kamtſchatka. Neither of them was frozen, which I aſcribed to the extreme rapidity of their current. The ſpot where we paſſed them was truly picturefque; but the moſt ſingular object was the numerous firs that ſkirted theſe rivers, and which ſeemed like ſo many trees of ice. A thick hoar-froſt, occaſioned perhaps by the dampneſs of the place, covered every branch, and gave to the whole a bright and chryſtalline appearance.

133 At ſome diſtance from Tolbatchina we croſſed a heath, from which I could perceive three volcanos; none of them threw up any flames, but merely clouds of very black ſmoke. The firſt, which I before mentioned in going to Machoure, has its reſervoir in the bowels of a mountain that is not exactly of a conical ſhape, the ſummit being flattened and but little elevated.

133 This volcano, I was informed, had been at
reſt for ſome time, and was ſuppoſed to be
extinguiſhed, but it had lately kindled
again. North-eaſt of this is a peak, the
top of which appears to be the crater of
a ſecond volcano, which continually throws
up ſmoke, though I could not perceive the
ſmalleſt ſpark of fire. The third is north-north-eaſt
of the ſecond; I could not obſerve
it as I wiſhed, a high mountain intercepting
almoſt entirely my view. It derives
its name from the village of Klutchefſkaïa,
near which it is ſituated; and I was
told that we ſhould paſs cloſer to it hereafter.
The two other volcanos are called
in like manner after the oſtrog of Tolbatchina,
where we arrived in good time. This
village is upon the Kamtſchatka, forty-four
werſts from Chapina, but it contains nothing
585 extraordinary. We were informed
177 that there had been a Kamtſchadale wedding
in the morning. I regretted the not

7:Lesseps I-3 [1787-88]L79. Kamchaca.

585 having been preſent at this ceremony, which,
177 as I was told, is nearly the ſame as in Ruſſia.
582 I ſaw the new married couple, who appeared to be two children. I aſked their age. The bridegroom was but fourteen, and the bride only eleven. Such marriages would be conſidered as premature in any country except Aſia.

000 I had an extreme deſire to ſee the town of Nijenei-Kamtſchatka, and had long thought how to ſatisfy it; to have left the peninſula without viſiting the capital, I ſhould have conſidered as an unpardonable fault. My curioſity did not interfere with my reſolution of travelling with all poſſible expedition. I was obliged indeed to make a circuit, but it was not ſo far as to occaſion a delay of any conſequence. Having concerted with M. Kaſloff, who was anxious to procure every thing that could render my journey agreeable and ſafe, I engaged

to join him at the village of Yelofki, where the arrangement of ſome affairs of his government would detain him ſeveral days.

That I might loſe leſs time, I took leave of him the evening of our arrival at Tolbatchina. But the roads were ſtill worſe than any we had yet met with. It was with the utmoſt difficulty I could reach Koſireſki by break of day, a village ſixty-ſix werſts from Tolbatchina.

I made no ſtay, elated with having happily eſcaped all the dangers that beſet me in ſo terrible a road, and in the darkneſs of the night*. I conceived that I had nothing to fear in the day, and proceeded with a kind of confidence for which I was

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* I learned afterwards that the ſledge of M. Kaſloff, who paſſed at noon day, had barely eſcaped from being daſhed to pieces in running againſt a tree, and that two of his conductors had been hurt by the violence of the ſhock.

000 ſoon puniſhed. After having travelled a conſiderable number of werſts upon the Kamtſchatka, which I had been delighted to find again, and the width of which in this place particularly ſtruck me, I was obliged to quit it and enter a ſort of ſtrait, where the ſnow, driven by the hurricanes, preſented an uneven and deceitful ſurface. It was impoſſible to ſee or avoid the rocks that ſurrounded me. I preſently heard a crack that told me my ſledge was damaged; it was in reality one of my ſkates broken in two. My guides aſſiſted me in adjuſting it in the beſt manner we could, and we had the good fortune to reach Ouchkoff without any other accident. It was midnight, and we travelled this day ſixty-ſix werſts. My firſt care was to refit my ſledge, which detained me till the next day.

361 136 438 There are in this village one iſba, and eleven balagans; the number of inhabitants is

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

is reduced to five families, who are divided 361
into three yourts. In the neighbourhood 136
is a lake which abounds ſo much with fiſh, 438
that all the villages round reſort to it for
their winter ſtock. It is alſo a conſiderable
reſource for the capital, which would
otherwiſe be almoſt deſtitute of a proviſion
of the firſt neceſſity throughout the peninſula.

I left Ouchkoff early in the morning, and 361
at noon had travelled forty-four werſts,
partly upon the Kamtſchatka, and partly
acroſs extenſive heaths. The firſt village I
came to was Kreſtoff. It was a little larger
than the preceding oſtrog, but ſimilar in
other reſpects to what I had before ſeen. 000
I only ſtayed to change my dogs. Hitherto
I had purſued the road which M. Kaſloff
was to take to get to Yelofki; but inſtead
of proceeding like him to Khartchina, I
directed my courſe, upon coming out of

000 Kreſtoff, towards the village of Klutchefskaïa, which is thirty werſts from it.

The weather, which, ſince our departure from Apatchin, had been very fine, though cold, changed all of a ſudden in the after-
133 noon. The ſky became clouded, and the wind, which roſe in the weſt, brought us a heavy ſnow. It extremely incommoded us, and prevented me from examining as I could have wiſhed, the volcano of Klutchefskaïa, which I had ſeen at the ſame time with thoſe of Tolbatchina. As far as I could judge, the mountain that carries it in its womb, is conſiderably higher than the other two. It continually throws up flames, which ſeem to aſcend from the midſt of the ſnow, with which the mountain is covered to its very ſummit.

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563
R Upon the approach of night I came to
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.24 the village of Klutchefskaïa. The inhabi-

tants

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tants are all Siberian peaſants, from the neighbourhood of the Lena, and were ſent about fifty years ago into this part of the peninſula to cultivate the land. The number of males, including men and children, ſcarcely exceed fifty. The ſmall-pox attacked only thoſe who had not before been affected with it; but it carried off more than one half of them. Theſe labourers are leſs happy than thoſe who live in the neighbourhood of Verknei-Kamtſchatka. The quantity and quality of their laſt harveſt, both rye and barley, exceeded their hopes. Theſe peaſants have many horſes belonging to them; in the mean time there are ſome which are the property of government.

This oſtrog is tolerably large, and appears the more ſo from being divided into two parts, about four hundred yards from each other. It extends principally from

563 eaſt to weſt. To the eaſtward is ſituated
361 the church, which is built of wood, and in
R the Ruſſian taſte. The majority of houſes
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, 24 are better conſtructed, and are more clean, than any I have yet ſeen. There are alſo ſome conſiderable magazines. The number of balagans is ſmall, and they are very unlike thoſe of the Kamtſchadales; their form is oblong, and their roof, which has the ſame declivity as ours, reſts upon poſts, which ſupport it in the air.

The Kamtſchatka paſſes at the bottom of the oſtrog; it is never entirely frozen in this part. In ſummer it frequently overflows and enters the very houſes, though they are all of them built upon an eminence.

Four werſts eaſt of the church of Klutchefskaïa, is another *zaimka*, or little hamlet, inhabited by Coſſacs or labouring ſoldiers,

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diers, whoſe harveſts belong to government: but I cannot get out of my way to examine it.

I made a very ſhort ſtay at Klutcheſſkaïa, my impatience to ſee Nijenei inducing me to leave it the ſame evening in order to reach Kamini, a Kamtſchadale village, twenty werſts farther. I arrived at midnight, but merely paſſed through it.

Before day I was at Kamokoff, twenty werſts from Kamini. I ſoon arrived at Tchokofskoi, or Tchoka, which is twenty-two werſts farther. From thence to Nijenei, the diſtance is the ſame, and I travelled it equally in a few hours. I had the pleaſure of entering a little before noon into this capital of Kamtſchatka, which is ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance, but its appearance is neither ſtriking nor agreeable.

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361 132 It preſents to our view merely a cluſter of houſes, with three ſteeples riſing above them, and is ſituated upon the border of the Kamtſchatka, in a baſon formed by a chain of mountains that raiſe their lofty heads around it, but which are however at a tolerable diſtance. Such is the poſition of the town of Nijenei, of which I had a higher opinion before I ſaw it. The houſes, amounting to about a hundred and fifty, are of wood, built in a very bad taſte, ſmall, and buried beſide under the ſnow, which the hurricanes collect there. Theſe hurricanes prevail almoſt continually in this quarter, and have only ceaſed within a few days. There are two churches at Nijenei, one is in the town, and has two ſteeples; the other belongs to, and is in the circuit of the fort. Theſe two buildings are wretchedly conſtructed. The fort is almoſt in the middle of the town, and is a large paliſaded encloſure of a ſquare form. Beſides the church,

361 the encloſure contains alſo the magazines, the arſenal, and the guard-houſe: a ſentinel is ſtationed at the entrance both day and night. The houſe of the governor, major Orleankoff, is near the fortreſs, and, its ſize excepted, is ſimilar to the reſt of the houſes; it is neither higher, nor built in a better taſte.

000 I alighted at the houſe of an unfortunate exile, named Snafidoff, who had ſuffered the ſame puniſhment as Ivaſchkin, nearly at the ſame time, but for different cauſes: like Ivaſchkin, he had been baniſhed to Kamtſchatka ever ſince the year 1744.

I had ſcarcely entered, when an officer from M. Orleankoff came to congratulate me upon my happy arrival. He was followed by many of the principal officers of the town, who came one after another in the moſt obliging manner to offer me their

ſervices.

000 over the remembrance of all the pleaſures of the day.

The next day I was invited to the houſe of the protapope, uncle to the bride, where the entertainment was ſimilar to that of the preceding one, except the fire-work. 177 793 I have already obſerved, that the protapope is chief of all the churches in Kamtſchatka. The clergy throughout the peninſula are ſubordinate to him, and he has the deciſion of all eccleſiaſtical affairs. His reſidence is at Nijenei. He is an old man, not entirely deprived of his vigour, with a long white beard which flows down upon his breaſt and gives him a truly venerable appearance. His converſation is ſenſible, ſprightly, and calculated to gain him the reſpect and affection of the people.

177 692 There are two tribunals at Nijenei, one that concerns the governments, and the other

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177 takes cognizance of all mercantile diſputes.
692 The magiſtrate who preſides in the latter, is a kind of burgomaſter, ſubject to the orders of the *gorodnitch*, or governor of the town. We have already ſeen that each of theſe juriſdictions holds from the tribunal of Okotſk, to the governor of which it is accountable for all its proceedings.

563 But what moſt intereſted me at Nijenei, and what I cannot paſs over in ſilence, was my finding there nine Japaneſe, who had been brought thither in the preceding ſummer, from the Aleutienne iſlands, by a Ruſſian veſſel employed in the trade of otter ſkins.

One of the Japaneſe informed me, that he and his companions had embarked in a ſhip of their own country, with an intention of viſiting the more ſouthern Kurilles iſlands, for the purpoſe of trading with

563 the inhabitants. They directed their courſe along the coaſt, and were at a ſmall diſtance from it, when they were overtaken by a violent gale, which carried them out to ſea, and deprived them of all knowledge where they were. According to his account, which however I did not altogether believe, they beat about in the ocean for near ſix months without ſeeing land; of courſe they muſt have had a plentiful ſtock of proviſions. At length they diſcerned the Aleutienne iſlands, and tranſported with joy, they determined to make for that coaſt, without well knowing in what part of the world it was. They accordingly caſt anchor near one of the iſlands, and a ſmall ſhallop brought them to land. At this place they found certain Ruſſians, who propoſed to them to unlade their veſſel, and remove it to a place of ſecurity; but either from ſuſpicion, or perhaps that they thought the next day would be early enough, the Japa-

563 neſe peremptorily refuſed. They had ſoon occaſion to repent of their negligence. That very night there aroſe a ſtrong gale, during which their ſhip ſtranded; and as this was not diſcovered till break of day, they had the utmoſt difficulty to ſave a ſmall part of the cargo, and ſome pieces of the veſſel, which had been almoſt entirely conſtructed of cedar. The Ruſſians, who had before treated them with civility, now exerted every effort in their power to make theſe unfortunate people forget their loſs. They at length perſuaded them to accompany them to Kamtſchatka, whither they were bound upon their return. My Japaneſe added, that they had at firſt been much more numerous, but that the fatigues of the ſea, and afterwards the rigour of the climate, had taken off many of his companions.

My informer appeared to have over his eight countrymen a very diſtinguiſhed ſuperiority;

563 riority; and he informed us that he was himſelf a merchant, and the reſt only ſailors under his command. Certain it is, that they entertain for him a ſingular veneration and friendſhip. They are penetrated with grief, and ſhew the greateſt uneaſineſs when he is indiſpoſed, or the leaſt unfavourable accident has befallen him. They regularly ſend twice a day one of their body to wait upon him. His friendſhip for them may be ſaid not to be leſs; not a day paſſes without his viſiting them, and he employs the greateſt care that they ſhould be in want of nothing. His name is Kodaïl: his figure has nothing in it ſingular, and is even agreeable; his eyes do not project like thoſe of the Chineſe; his noſe is long, and he has a beard which he frequently ſhaves. He is about five feet in ſtature, and is tolerably well made. At firſt he wore his hair in the Chineſe faſhion; that is, he had a ſingle lock depending from the middle of his head, the reſt

563 of his hair round it being cloſe ſhaved; but he has lately been perſuaded to let it grow, and to tie it after the French faſhion. He is extremely apprehenſive of cold, and the warmeſt garments given him are ſcarcely able to ſave him from it. Under theſe he conſtantly wears the dreſs of his country: this conſiſts in the firſt place of one or more long chemiſes of ſilk, like our dreſſing gowns; and over theſe he wears one of woollen, which ſeems to imply that this ſort of materials is more precious in their eſtimation than ſilk. Perhaps however the circumſtance ariſes from ſome motive of convenience, of which I am ignorant. The ſleeves of this garment are long and open; and, in ſpite of the rigour of the climate, he has conſtantly his arms and his neck uncovered. They put a handkerchief about his neck when he goes abroad, which he takes off as ſoon as he enters a houſe, being, as he ſays, unable to ſupport it.

His

563 His ſuperiority over his countrymen was calculated to make him be diſtinguiſhed; but this circumſtance has leſs weight than the vivacity of his temper and the mildneſs of his diſpoſition. He lodges and eats at the houſe of major Orleankoff. The freedom with which he enters the houſe of the governor and other perſons, would among us be thought inſolent, or at leaſt rude. He immediately fixes himſelf as much at his eaſe as poſſible, and takes the firſt chair that offers; he aſks for whatever he wants, or helps himſelf, if it be within his reach. He ſmokes almoſt inceſſantly; his pipe is ſhort, and ornamented with ſilver; he puts into it a very ſmall quantity of tobacco, which he renews every moment. To this habit he is ſo much addicted, that it was with difficulty they could perſuade him to part with his pipe even at meals. He is poſſeſſed of great penetration, and apprehends with admirable readineſs every thing

563 you are deſirous to communicate. He has much curioſity, and is an accurate obſerver. I was aſſured that he kept a minute journal of every thing he ſaw, and all that happened to him. Indeed the objects and the cuſtoms he has an opportunity to obſerve, have ſo little reſemblance to thoſe of his country, that every thing furniſhes him with a ſubject of remark. Attentive to whatever paſſes, or is ſaid in his preſence, he puts it into writing, for fear of forgetting it. His characters appeared to me conſiderably to reſemble the Chineſe, but the form of writing is different, theſe writing from right to left, and the Japaneſe from the top of the page to the bottom. He ſpeaks Ruſſian with ſufficient eaſe to make himſelf underſtood; you muſt however be uſed to his pronunciation to converſe with him, as he delivers himſelf with a volubility that frequently obliges you to miſs ſomething he ſays, or apprehend it in a wrong ſenſe. His

563 repartees are in general ſprightly and natural. He employs no concealment or reſerve, but tells with the utmoſt frankneſs what he thinks of every one. His company is agreeable, and his temper tolerably even, though with a conſiderable tendency to ſuſpicion. Does he miſs any thing? he inſtantly imagines that it has been ſtolen from him, and diſcovers anxiety and diſquietude. His ſobriety is admirable, and perfectly contraſts with the manners of this country. When he has determined to drink no ſtrong liquor, it is impoſſible to induce him ſo much as to taſte it; when he is inclined, he aſks for it of his own accord, but never drinks to exceſs. I obſerved alſo, that, after the manner of the Chineſe, in eating he made uſe of two little ſticks, which he handled with great dexterity.

I requeſted to ſee ſome of the coin of his country, and he readily gratified my curioſity.

000 rioſity. The gold coin was a thin plate of an oval form, and of about two inches in its longeſt diameter. It is marked with various Japaneſe characters, and it appeared to be of pure gold, without any alloy, ſo that it readily bent in any manner you pleaſed. Their ſilver money is ſquare, ſmaller, thinner, and lighter than that of gold; he however aſſured me that at Japan this was the ſuperior coin. The copper coin is preciſely the ſame as the *cache* of the Chineſe: it is round, and nearly of the ſize of our two *liard* pieces, with a ſquare perforation in the middle.

563 I aſked him ſome queſtions reſpecting the nature of the merchandize they had ſaved from their wreck, and I underſtood, from his anſwer, that it conſiſted chiefly in cups, plates, boxes, and other commodities of that ſort, with a very fine varniſh. I

563 afterwards found they had ſold a part of them at Kamtſchatka.

000 I truſt I ſhall be forgiven this digreſſion upon theſe Japaneſe; I can ſcarcely imagine that it will be thought impertinent; it will aſſiſt us in becoming acquainted with a nation that we have ſcarcely an opportunity to ſee and obſerve.

Having ſpent three days at Nijenei Kamtſchatka, I left it 12 February at one o'clock in the afternoon, to meet M. Kaſloff, whom I was ſure of finding at Yeloſki. My road for ſome time was the ſame as I had already travelled in going to Nijenei, and I arrived at Tchoka early in the evening. A ſtrong weſterly wind almoſt always prevails in this place. The ſituation of the oſtrog ſufficiently accounts for it, which is upon a river that runs between two chains of mountains guides, notwithſtanding their knowledge of the roads, could no longer be anſwerable for not miſleading us. We could not prevail on them to conduct us any farther; and yet it was dreadful to lie to at the mercy of ſo impetuous a hurricane. As to myſelf, I confeſs that I began to ſuffer extremely, when our guides propoſed to lead us to a wood that was not far off, and where we ſhould at leaſt find ſome kind of ſhelter. We heſitated not a moment to avail ourſelves of their civility; but before we quitted the road, it was neceſſary to wait till our ſledges could be aſſembled, or we ſhould otherwiſe run the riſk of being ſeparated from one another, and entirely loſt. Having effected this, we gained the wood, which was happily at the diſtance that we had been informed. Our halt took place about two o'clock in the afternoon.

The firſt care of our Kamtſchadales was

000 to dig a hole in the ſnow, which was in this place at leaſt ſix feet deep; others fetched wood, and a fire being quickly lighted, the kettle was ſet on. A light repaſt, and a ſmall dram of brandy, ſoon recovered all our company. As the night approached, we were employed upon the means of paſsing it in the leaſt uncomfortable manner. Each prepared his own bed: mine was my vezock, where I could lie down at my eaſe; but except M. Kaſloff, there was no other perſon who had ſo convenient a carriage. How, ſaid I to myſelf, will theſe poor creatures contrive to ſleep? I was ſoon relieved 513 from my anxiety on their account. The manner in which they prepared their beds, deſerves to be mentioned, though they did not obſerve much ceremony on the occaſion. Having dug a hole in the ſnow, they covered it with the branches of trees, the ſmalleſt they could get; then wrapping themſelves up in a *kouklanki*, with the hood drawn over

513 their heads, they lay down on their bed as if it were the beſt in the world. As to our dogs, they were unharneſſed, and tied to the trees that were near us, where they paſſed the night in their uſual manner.

The wind having conſiderably abated, we proceeded on our journey before it was light. We had thirty werſts to Ozernoï, where it had been our intention to have ſlept the preceding evening. We arrived at ten o'clock in the morning, but our dogs being extremely fatigued, we were obliged to ſpend the reſt of the day, and even the night there, in hopes that the wind, which began to blow ſtill more violently in the afternoon, would ſubſide during the interval.

361 The oſtrog takes its name from a lake that is near it. The river Ozernaïa, which is but ſmall, runs at the bottom of the vil-

lage.

361 lage. The houſe of the toyon was the only iſba I ſaw, and I was informed that we ſhould meet with no more of theſe kind of buildings till we came to the town of Ingiga. There were, however, fifteen balagans and two yourts. I might here deſcribe theſe ſubterraneous habitations; but as they are ſmall in compariſon with thoſe which I ſhall ſoon have an opportunity of examining, I ſhall defer my deſcription for the preſent.

000 We paſſed alſo the 21 February at Ozernoï, in fruitleſs expectation of a ſerjeant of M. Kaſloff's ſuite, who had been ſent to Nijenei-Kamtſchatka.

The next day we reached Ouké at a tolerably early hour, which is only twenty ſix werſts. There we waited again for the ſerjeant, who had been ordered to join us at this place. But he did not come.

361 There is but one iſba at Ouké, which, together with a dozen balagans and two yourts, form the whole oſtrog. One of the yourts had been cleaned for M. Kaſloff, and we paſſed the night in it.

000 We left this village at break of day, and half way on our journey we ſaw a certain number of balagans, which are only inhabited, I was informed, in the fiſhing ſeaſon. Near this place we met the ſea again, and travelled on the ſhore for ſome time. I was extremely mortified at not being able to ſee at what diſtance it was frozen, nor what was the direction of this part of the eaſtern coaſt of Kamtſchatka. A north wind incommoded us, and impelled the ſnow with ſuch violence againſt us, that our whole attention was engroſſed by guarding our eyes from it; there was alſo a fog that extended from the ſhore to a conſiderable diſtance on the ſea, and intercepted almoſt entirely

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000 entirely the view of it. The inhabitants of the country, whom I interrogated upon the ſubject, informed me we had juſt paſſed a bay of no very conſiderable width, and that the ſea was covered with ice as far as thirty werſts from the land.

361 At Khaluli, an oſtrog, ſituated upon a river of the ſame name, ſixty ſix werſts from Ouké, and at a ſhort diſtance from the ſea, I found but two yourts and twelve or thirteen balagans; but I had the pleaſure
281 of ſeeing a baidar covered with leather.
501 This boat was about fifteen feet long and four wide; the hull was made of planks tolerably thin, and croſſing each other; a longer and thicker piece of wood ſerved as the keel; the timbers were made faſt with leathern ſtraps; and the whole was covered over with ſeveral ſkins of ſea horſes and large ſea wolves.

I par-

281 501 I particularly admired the manner in which theſe ſkins were prepared, and the compactneſs with which they were ſewn together, ſo that the water could not penetrate into the boat. Its ſhape was ſomewhat ſimilar to ours, but leſs round, and therefore leſs graceful; it converged towards the extremities, ſo as to terminate in a point, and had a flat bottom. The lightneſs of the common baidars, which makes them liable to be overturned, doubtleſs gave riſe to this mode of conſtructing them, by which they acquire more weight. This boat was placed under a ſhed built on purpoſe to protect it from the ſnow. The toyon of Khaluli having given up his yourt to us, we ſlept in it, being unable to proceed till the next day. The wind had increaſed ſince our arrival, and did not abate till the middle of the night.

000 At ten o'clock in the morning we had loſt

ſight

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166 AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING WE HAD LEFT
361 ſight of Khaluli, and paſſed an old village of the ſame name, which had been lately deſerted on account of its bad ſituation. Farther on we found ſome more deſolated habitations, formerly the oſtrog of Ivaſchkin, and which had been removed, for a ſimilar reaſon, thirty werſts from its former ſituation. We came again to the ſea, and travelled for ſome time on the eaſtern coaſt. It forms another bay at this place, which I was deſirous of examining, but was, as before, prevented by the fog. I obſerved that the fog cleared up in proportion as the wind veered to the north-eaſt, which had hitherto been weſt and north-weſt.

361 Ivaſchkin is forty werſts from Khaluli, and very near to the ſea. It contains two yourts and ſix balagans, and is ſituated upon a ſmall river of the ſame name, which was entirely frozen, as was alſo one that we had juſt paſſed.

000 We ſlept at this village, and ſpent a conſiderable part of the next day there, from the apprehenſion of a hurricane, which, it was ſaid, threatened us. We were at laſt relieved from our fears, and though it was tolerably late when we reſolved to proceed, we reached Drannki, which is thirty werſts. The ſituation of this oſtrog is ſimilar to the preceding one. Here we found M. Haus, a Ruſſian officer: he came from Tiguil, and brought M. Kaſloff various objects of natural hiſtory.

133 We left Drannki at break of day. In the afternoon we croſſed a bay that was fifteen werſts wide, and from twenty-five to thirty deep; the entrance was ſcarcely leſs than five werſts: it is formed by the ſouth coaſt. This coaſt is low land, gradually declining as it advances into the ſea. The bay runs weſt-north-weſt and eaſt-ſouth-eaſt. It appeared to me that weſt-north-weſt of its entrance, towards Karagui, veſ-

ſels

7 Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

133 ſels may ſafely anchor, and be ſheltered from the ſouth, the weſt, and the north winds: The ſouth of its entrance does not afford ſo good a harbour, as it is ſaid to have various ſand banks; I was obliged to truſt to report, the ice and the ſnow preventing me from obtaining any better information.

361
631 We travelled this day ſeventy werſts, and came in the evening to Karagui, which is upon an eminence, and affords a view of the ſea. It has only three yourts and twelve balagans, at the foot of which the river Karaga paſſes. This river pours itſelf into the ſea at the diſtance of a few gun ſhots from the oſtrog, which is the laſt in the diſtrict of Kamtſchatka; a hamlet a hundred werſts farther, and containing but few Kamtſchadales, not being included within its limits.

As we were obliged to wait here for a

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000 ſtock of dried fiſh, not yet come up, and intended for the nouriſhment of our dogs in the deſerts, which we are now to traverſe, I ſhall embrace this opportunity of tranſcribing various notes made in this and the preceding villages. They will not be placed in the ſame order as they were written; it muſt be ſuppoſed that the rapidity with which we travelled, frequently left me no choice in this reſpect *.

342 I ſhall firſt ſpeak of the yourts, which I have not yet deſcribed, deſerving as] they are of particular attention. Theſe ſtrange houſes are ſunk in the earth, as I before obſerved, and the top, which appears above ground,

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* I ſhall be cenſured perhaps for making my narrative abound with dry and uniform details. I would willingly ſpare the reader in this reſpect, if I had not promiſed to obſerve the utmoſt accuracy. Let him conſider the objects with which I am ſurrounded in the immenſe extent of country that I travel, and he will perceive that they are almoſt always the ſame. Does it then depend upon me to vary my deſcriptions, and avoid tautology?

342 ground, is like a truncated cone. To
354 form a juſt idea of them, we muſt conceive
of a large ſquare hole about twelve or fourteen yards in diameter, and eight feet deep; the four ſides are lined with joiſts or boards, and the interſtices of theſe walls are filled up with earth, ſtraw, or dried graſs, and ſtones. In the bottom of this hole various poſts are fixed, that ſupport the croſs beams upon which the roof reſts. The roof begins upon a level with the ground, and riſes four feet above it; it is two feet thick, has a very gradual ſlope, and is made of the ſame materials as the walls. Towards the top is a ſquare opening, about four feet long and three wide, which ſerves as a paſſage for the ſmoke * and an entrance to the

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* There is ſuch a continual ſmoke in theſe ſubterraneous habitations, that the opening in the roof is not ſufficient to let it out, and there is therefore in an unoccupied corner of the yourt, behind the fire-place, a kind of vent-hole in an oblique direction. It is called *joupann*; it terminates without, at a little diſtance from the ſquare opening, and is commonly cloſed up with a mat or ſtraw covering.

342 yourt, where the women as well as the men go in and out by means of a ladder, or notched beam, that is raiſed to a level with this opening. There is another very low entrance in one ſide of the yourt, but it is conſidered as a kind of diſgrace to
351 make uſe of it. I ſhall terminate the deſcription of the exterior part of theſe habitations by adding, that they are ſurrounded with tolerably high paliſades, doubtleſs as a protection againſt the gales of wind, or falls of ſnow; it is ſaid, however, that theſe encloſures formerly ſerved as ramparts to defend theſe people againſt their enemies.

342 We have no ſooner deſcended theſe ſavage
352 abodes, than we wiſh ourſelves out again; the view and the ſmell are equally offenſive. The interior part conſiſts of one entire room, about ten feet high. A bench, five feet wide, and covered with various ſkins, half worn out, extends all round it. This

bench

352 bench is only a foot from the ground*,
511 and commonly ſerves as a bed for a number
514 of families. I have counted in one
yourt more than twenty perſons, men,
women, and children. They eat, drink,
and ſleep pell mell together, ſatisfy all the
calls of nature without reſtraint or modeſty,
and never complain of the noxious air that
354 prevails in theſe places. It is true there is
353 a fire almoſt inceſſantly. The fire-place is
commonly either in the middle of the yourt
or againſt one of the ſides. In the evening
they rake the coals in a heap, and ſhut the
entrance of the yourt, where the ſmoke
ſhould evaporate; and thus the heat is concentrated,
and kept up during the whole
night. By means of a diſmal lamp, the
form and diſagreeable ſmell of which I
have before deſcribed, we diſcover in one

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[*] Some of the yourts which I ſaw were floored with planks; but this is regarded as a luxury, and the generality have no other floor than the ground.

353 corner of the apartment * a wretched image
of ſome ſaint, ſhining with greaſe and
blackened with ſmoke. It is before theſe
images that the Kamtſchadales bow them-
352 ſelves, and offer their prayers. The reſt of
415 the furniture conſiſts of ſeats and ſome veſ-
356 ſels, made either of wood, or the bark of
511 trees. Their cookery utenſils are of copper
or iron; but they are all diſguſtingly filthy.
The remains of their dried fiſh are ſcattered
about the room, and the women or the
children are continually broiling pieces of
ſalmon ſkin, which is one of their favourite
meats.

171 The ſingularity of the children's dreſs
291 particularly attracted my attention; it is
854 ſaid exactly to reſemble that of the Koriacs.
It conſiſts of only one garment, that is, of a

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* This nook is in a manner diſtinct from the room, and is leſs filthy, becauſe it is leſs frequented. It is a place of honour ſet apart for ſtrangers.

291 ſingle deer ſkin, that covers and ſits cloſe to
824 every part of the body, ſo that the children
854 ſeem to be entirely ſewed up. An opening
at the bottom, before and behind, affords an opportunity of cleaning them. This opening is covered with another piece of ſkin, which may be faſtened and lifted up at pleaſure; it ſupports a tuft of moſs *, placed like a clout between the legs of the child, and which is renewed as often as it becomes neceſſary. Beſides the common ſleeves, there are two others hanging to the garment to place the arms of the child in when it is cold; the extremities are ſewed up, and the ſleeves lined on the inſide with moſs. There is alſo a hood fitted to it, made of the ſame materials as the reſt of the dreſs; but in yourts the heads of the children are almoſt always bare, and the hood hangs therefore upon their ſhoulders. Beſide all this,

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* They make uſe of the herb called *tonnchitcha* for the ſame purpoſe.

they

291 they have a deer ſkin girt, which ſerves as a
854 ſaſh. The women carry their children on their back by means of a ſtring, which paſſes round the forehead of the mother and under the buttocks of the child.

171 The toyon of Karagui, at whoſe houſe we
622 lodged, was an old rebel. It was with ſome difficulty he had been brought back to his duty, and he gave us ſome uneaſineſs by his poſitive refuſal to procure us fiſh.

The manners of the inhabitants of this oſtrog are very ſimilar to thoſe of the neighbouring Koriacs. This analogy is as conſpicuous in their idiom as in the dreſs of their children. I had an opportunity of remarking it the day after our arrival.

Underſtanding that there were two hordes of rein deer Koriacs at no great diſtance, we ſent immediately a meſſenger to them to requeſt

000 ſky ſeemed to threaten us with a ſecond tempeſt before the end of the day. It began to riſe about two o'clock in the afternoon, and laſted till the evening.

535 To divert our attention, it was propoſed to us to try the abilities of a celebrated female dancer, who was a Kamtſchadale, and lived in this oſtrog. The encomiums beſtowed upon her excited our curioſity, and we ſent for her; but either from caprice or ill humour ſhe refuſed to dance, and paid no regard to our invitation. It was in vain they repreſented that her refuſal was diſreſpectful to the governor general; no conſideration could induce her to comply. Fortunately we had ſome brandy by us, and a bumper or two ſeemed to effect a change in her inclinations. At the ſame time a Kamtſchadale, at our requeſt, began to dance before her, challenging her by his voice and geſtures. Gradually her eyes ſparkled, her

535 countenance became convulſive, and her whole frame ſhook upon the bench where ſhe ſat. To the enticements and ſhrill ſong of the dancer, ſhe anſwered in ſimilar accents, beating time with her head, which turned in every direction. The movements became at laſt ſo rapid, that, no longer able to contain herſelf, ſhe darted from her ſeat, and in turn defied her man by cries and diſtortions ſtill more extravagant. It is not eaſy to expreſs the abſurdity of the dance. All her limbs ſeemed to be disjointed; ſhe moved them with equal ſtrength and agility; ſhe tore her cloaths, and fixed her hands to her boſom with a kind of rage as if ſhe would tear it alſo. Theſe ſingular tranſports were accompanied with ſtill more ſingular poſtures; and in ſhort, it was no longer a woman, but a fury. In her blind frenzy ſhe would have ruſhed into the fire that was kindled in the middle of the room, if her huſband had not taken the precau-

tion

535 tion of placing a bench before it to prevent her: during the whole dance indeed he took care to keep himſelf cloſe to her. When he ſaw that her head was perfectly gone, that ſhe ſtaggered on all ſides, and could no longer ſupport herſelf without laying hold of her fellow dancer, he took her in his arms and placed her upon a bench, where ſhe fell, like an inanimate clod, without conſciouſneſs, and out of breath. She continued five minutes in this ſituation. Meanwhile the Kamtſchadale, proud of his triumph, continued to dance and to ſing. Recovering from her ſwoon, the woman heard him, and ſuddenly, in ſpite of her weakneſs, ſhe raiſed herſelf up, uttered ſome inarticulate ſounds, and would have begun again this labourous conteſt. Her huſband kept her back, and interceded for her; but the conqueror, believing himſelf to be indefatigable, continued his jeers and bantering, and we were obliged to exert our authority

to

535 to quiet him. In ſpite of the praiſes that were laviſhed upon the talents of theſe actors, the ſcene, I confeſs, afforded me no amuſement, but on the contrary, conſiderable diſguſt

276 All the inhabitants of this place, women as well as men, ſmoke and chew tobacco. By a refinement that I cannot account for, they mix aſhes with the tobacco to make it ſtronger. We gave them ſome ſnuff, and they applied it not to their noſe, but to their mouth. I examined their pipes: they are of the ſame ſhape as thoſe of the Chineſe, made of bone, and very ſmall. When they make uſe of them, they do not emit the ſmoke from their mouth, but ſwallow it with great gratification.

000 All the toyons of the different oſtrogs we had paſſed in coming from Ozernoi, out of reſpect to M. Kaſloff, had eſcorted us as

000 far as Karagui. The ſecond day after our arrival, they had taken their leave of us to return to their reſpective habitations. Their adieux were affectionate. After making new apologies for not having been able to give him a better reception in the courſe of his journey, they ſhowed the utmoſt regret at leaving him, as if he had been ſurrounded by the moſt imminent dangers, and offered him whatever they poſſeſſed, ignorant of any other way of teſtifying their attachment. They addreſſed themſelves in like manner to me, and ſolicited me with earneſtneſs to receive ſomething from them. It was uſeleſs to make objections; my refuſals only rendered them the more urgent, and to ſatisfy them I was obliged to accept their preſents.

Let me be permitted in this place to perform a duty which I owe to the Kamtſcha-

dales in general, for the civility with which
157 they treated me. I have already mentioned
609 their mild and hoſpitable character, but I
have not been ſufficiently minute reſpecting the inſtances of regard which theſe good people gave me, and I recall with pleaſure the rememberance of their kind reception. There was not, I believe, an individual chief of any oſtrog, that did not make me ſome trifling preſent. Sometimes it was a ſable or fox ſkin, and ſometimes fruit or fiſh, and ſuch other objects as they conceived would be moſt agreeable to me. One would have ſuppoſed that they had reſolved, by their attentions to me, to repair the injuſtice which they had ſo long committed againſt the French name. They often thanked me for having undeceived them upon the ſubject; and ſometimes again were tempted to regret it, when they conſidered that they ſhould ſee me no more, and that it ſeldom

609 happened that any of my countrymen viſited their peninſula.

We left Karagui at one o'clock in the morning of 2 March. The weather was tolerably calm, and continued ſo during the whole day. The only inconvenience we met with, was the not being able to croſs, as we had hoped to do, a bay which the tempeſt of the preceding evening had cleared of its ice: we were obliged to go round it. This bay has conſiderable depth, is eight or ten werſts wide, and appeared to run in the direction of north-eaſt and ſouth-weſt. The ice was only broken up as far as the mouth, where it became ſolid again, and extended into the ſea. With the circuit which we were obliged to make, we travelled this day about fifty werſts.

Upon the approach of night, we ſtopped

in

600 and mixed with rice and oatmeal. It was prepared in half an hour, and in the following manner. He took a piece of beef, or fleſh of rein deer, and put it into boiling water, having firſt cut it into very thin ſlices, which were ready in an inſtant.

The evening previous to our departure from Karagui, we had killed and begun upon our ſecond deer. We regaled ourſelves with the marrow: raw or dreſſed, I thought it excellent. We had the tongue alſo boiled, and I conceived that I had never eaten any thing more delicious.

We purſued our journey early in the morning, but it was impoſſible to travel more than thirty-five werſts. The wind had changed to the weſt and ſouth-weſt; it blew with extreme violence, and beat the ſnow in our faces. Our guides ſuffered extremely, leſs however than our dogs,

ſome

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

000 the ſame manner as the preceding, we purſued our journey at three o'clock in the
103 morning. We quitted not the ſea coaſt
361 till we came to Gavenki, which was about ten o'clock. The name of the village is derived from the word *gavna*, which ſignifies excrement; and it is ſo called on account of its deformity and wretched ſtate. There are in reality but two iſbas falling to ruin, and ſix balagans very ill conſtructed of bad and crooked wood, which the ſea leaves ſometimes upon the ſhore; for there is not a tree in the whole neighbourhood, and nothing to be ſeen but a few paltry ſhrubs ſcattered here and there at a conſiderable diſtance from one another. I was not aſtoniſhed to learn, that not along ago, more than twenty of the inhabitants voluntarily abandoned their country to ſeek out a better abode. At preſent the population of this hamlet does not exceed five families, including that of the toyon, and two Kamtſchadales

361 ſchadales from the iſland of Karagui, who are ſettled there. No reaſon was aſſigned for this removal, and I doubt whether they have gained by the change.

000 We had not been an hour at Gavenki, when a deſpute aroſe between a ſergeant of our company, and two peaſants of the village, to whom he had applied for wood. They anſwered bluntly that they would not give him any. From one thing to another the quarrel became violent. The Kamtſchadales, little intimidated by the threats of the ſergeant, drew their knives * and fell upon him; but they were immediately diſarmed by two of our ſoldiers. As ſoon as M. Kaſloff was informed of this violence, he ordered that the guilty ſhould be puniſhed as an example. They were brought before the yourt in which we were,

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* Theſe knives are about two feet long; they are worn in their girdle, and hang npon the thigh.